

Minutes  
On-Site Waste Water Disposal Committee  
September 14, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT: Delores Coffing, Gale Holbrook, Ron Kroeger, Pam Lang, Grace Mickelson, Jerry Munson, Linda Peterson, Perry Rahn, Foster Sawyer, Bob Wall, Ed Yelick

STAFF PRESENT: Marcia Elkins, Marlin Johnson, Van Lindquist, Sharlene Mitchell, Randy Nelson, Ted Vore

OTHERS PRESENT: Arlene Ham, Bill Keck

Call to Order / Introduction of ex officio members

Mickelson called the meeting to order at 7:36 a.m. and introduced Senator Arlene Ham.

Approval of July 20, 2000 Minutes

**Wall moved, Munson seconded and carried unanimously to approve the July 20, 2000 Minutes.**

Adoption of Management Plan

Mickelson presented the Implementation Schedule for On-Site Wastewater Disposal Systems Management Plan for Committee adoption consideration.

Nelson briefly reviewed the issues incorporated into the management plan and the scheduling of the various elements. Nelson clarified that the management plan does not address funding or personnel. Nelson indicated that the intent of the management plan is to expand and improve the existing regulations to insure proper installation and maintenance of the individual waste water system. Discussion followed regarding possible funding sources including the implementation of inspection fees.

Mickelson reviewed the funding commitment previously received from Rapid City, Pennington County and West Dakota Water District to be utilized for educational purposes. Elkins clarified that the City and County funding authority has expired noting that the West Dakota Water District funds are available. Discussion followed regarding the implementation area for the proposed regulations.

Noting that the main goal is protection of ground water, Wall requested clarification of the process utilized to identify a downward failing system as opposed to a surface failing system. Johnson commented on the difficulty in identifying a downward failing system and methods that could be implemented to test a system for such a failure. Discussion followed regarding methods for inspecting individual systems.

Wall indicated that determining the functioning status of existing systems is critical to ground water protection. Lindquist indicated that proper installation of new systems would assist in mitigating these issues. He continued that the inspection process could then be utilized to upgrade the existing systems.

Discussion followed regarding the value of the Committee's work and the Management Plan structure in addressing the various program elements. Coffing voiced support for the

Committee's work noting the direct impact the expanding rural development has on water quality. Mickelson commented on the nationwide development trends and the resources and studies available on the issues being addressed by this Committee. Ham recommended seeking assistance from the Department of Energy and Natural Resources. Discussion followed regarding the recent DENR presentation, the effectiveness of the State regulations and the importance of water to the quality of life.

Kroeger recommended that the Committee's name be changed to reflect the Committee's goal to protect the water quality. Vore recommended development of a joint City/County ordinance addressing installation and maintenance of individual systems and protection of water quality.

Mickelson indicated that the purpose of the educational program would be to encourage general public support for the proposed regulations.

Lindquist recommended that the Management Plan be adopted in principle with no specific dates for implementation or completion. **Holbrook moved, Coffing seconded and carried unanimously to adopt the Implementation Schedule for On-Site Wastewater Disposal Systems Management Plan with no specific dates for implementation or completion.**

#### County Ordinance Review Subcommittee Report

Peterson presented the County's ordinance amendment proposal to addressing the installation of individual wastewater disposal systems. Discussion followed regarding the identification of a backup on-site wastewater disposal area and the specific environmental issues that would prompt the requirement for larger than minimum lot sizes. Lindquist recommended that the "area of development" also be addressed to insure that areas of high vulnerability are not over developed.

Peterson commented on the various soils found in Pennington County and the difficulty encountered in drafting an ordinance that would address those differences. Discussion followed regarding development of the proposed regulations, the philosophy of dry sewer installation in rural subdivisions, and the location and identification of all individual systems in the Black Hills area.

Elkins suggested that the County consider requiring new on-site systems to be GPS mapped to allow for the future development of database. Discussion followed regarding the accuracy of GPS mapping in the Hills area. Peterson suggested presenting the proposed ordinance to the County Planning Commission for their review and comment.

#### City Ordinance Review Subcommittee Report

Vore indicated that the City Subcommittee did not meet. Noting that pollution does not stop at political boundaries, Vore suggested that Pennington County would be better served by a joint City/County ordinance.

Munson indicated that he understood the Subcommittee's responsibility to be the review of existing ordinances and preparation of amendment recommendations. Nelson briefly reviewed the current City ordinances noting the need to establish technical standards prior to drafting ordinance revisions. Discussion followed regarding the 1991 ordinance.

Discussion followed regarding whether the Committee felt it was appropriate for the City and County to operate independently or jointly. Kroeger voiced support for development of a

uniform City/County regulation and recommended that the two Ordinance Subcommittees work together to develop a joint ordinance.

**Holbrook moved, Kroeger seconded and carried unanimously to recommend that the City and County Ordinance Review Subcommittees work together to draft a joint ordinance that will address both City and County issues with the installation and maintenance of on-site waste water disposal systems.**

Discussion followed regarding the coordination of the City and County goals. Johnson clarified that the intent of the County's ordinance proposal was to address County issues regardless of the actions taken by this Committee.

*Mickelson announced that the next meeting of the On-Site Waste Water Disposal Committee has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 18, 2000 @ 10:00 a.m. in the First Floor Community Room.*

#### Education Subcommittee Report

Lindquist briefly reviewed the recommendations of the Education Subcommittee noting the various levels of government associated with the education process. Lindquist indicated that Committee members would provide presentations at the Board of Water and Natural Resources seminar. Lindquist commented on the existing education materials available noting the need to review and select materials based on their applicability to the Hills area.

Lindquist commented on the need for Committee members to provide strong commitment and support for the actions of the Committee including providing public presentations on the issues. Lindquist stressed that the goal is ground water protection for the Community's future.

Discussion followed regarding the methods available for dissemination of the educational information including an internet web site. Mickelson indicated that more specific educational recommendations would be provided at the October meeting. Discussion followed regarding federal programs that may be available to fund the educational programs.

Bill Keck, County Extension Agent, commented on the development of an educational video by the Resource, Conservation and Development office targeted specifically for the Black Hills area. Keck commented on other available sources for dissemination of educational materials. Discussion followed regarding the qualification criteria for the 319 funding program.

#### Committee Name Change

Elkins recommended that the Committee present their recommendation for name change to the Mayor for formal action. Discussion followed regarding reflecting the Committee's goal of water protection in the Committee's name.

**Rahn moved, Peterson seconded and carried unanimously to recommend that the On-Site Waste Water Disposal Committee be renamed the "Drinking Water Protection Committee" in order to more accurately reflect the Committee's goal of ground and surface water protection and to request the Mayor's consideration of the name change.**

Other Business

Foster indicated that digital photographic quadrangles maps could also be utilized to locate individual systems and drainfields. Discussion followed.

Noting the volume of work to be completed, Mickelson encouraged interested individuals to volunteer to serve on any of the Subcommittees.

Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.