

**Clark County OSS  
Technical Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Minutes  
June 15, 2010**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Aaron Henderson opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees. The following people were present: Pat Reis, Ted Gibson, Matt Wiard, Basil Rotschy, Pete Roberts, Mike Williams, Mark Collier, Nathan Ek, Dale Waliezer, Aaron Henderson, Marni Storey, Matt John, Steve Keirn, Debbie Aultman, Sandy Angus.

**II. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 20, 2010 MEETING MINUTES**

October 20, 2010 OSS TAC meeting minutes were reviewed with no discussion.

**Action:** October 20, 2010 OSS TAC meeting minutes were unanimously approved. Agenda was reviewed with no changes.

**III. REVIEW AGENDA**

June 15, 2010 Agenda was reviewed with no changes.

**Action:** October 20, 2010 OSS TAC Meeting Agenda unanimously approved with no changes.

**IV. CRUSHED GLASS**

Discussion ensued regarding using crushed glass as a construction aggregate for trench backfill. Crushed glass is claimed to be suited for use as a granular backfill material, especially in wet environments and, when correctly compacted, not prone to settlement. TAC members voiced their concerns with using such a compound in a septic drainfield where clogging could occur. This topic will be tabled to another meeting.

**V. FEE SCHEDULE CHANGES**

Marni presented the proposed fee scenario that is the result of two prior BOH workshops. The draft schedule is based on policy directives given to Public Health by the commissioners.

- ▶ Fees will be calculated from a formula derivative of staff time and activity, including all associated costs;
- ▶ Each fee should cover its own costs, not subsidizing another fee;
- ▶ Costs incurred from services not directly related to permitting, such as complaint investigations and outbreak response would not be included in fees, but come from the county general fund.

Marni requested a response to the proposed fee schedule from the OSS TAC members.

◆ **Tipping Fee**

Dale objected to the increase in Septage tipping fee. He stated that this proposal will nearly double the current charge of \$.06/gal, thereby, creating a deterrent for homeowners to have their systems pumped. This could also discourage pumpers to dispose of the waste by other means and circumvent around the reporting process.

◆ **Repair of Failure Fee**

Raising the Repair of Failure fee may create a disincentive for homeowners to report failures that occur outside regular inspections. Perhaps these fees may receive some subsidy from the general fund as repairing a failure benefits the community and health in general.

◆ **OnlineRME Reporting Fee**

Raising the inspection fees from \$20 to \$28 may hinder homeowners from having their on-site septic systems inspected and recorded with EPH.

◆ **Septic Release Letter**

Reinstate the \$75 Septic Release Letter fee so that other permit fees are not subsidizing this activity.

◆ **Annual Operating Fee**

TAC discussed the proposal of adding an annual fee to on-site septic homeowners' property tax statements to support the O&M program. This action would create better compliance with OSS regulations. Aaron reported that a utility fee cannot be imposed, but the county can an operating fee that could be attached to the property tax statements to those homes with an OSS.

The TAC strongly recommends that the BOH hold off on deciding to raise the O&M report fees, Septage Tipping fees, and Repair of Failure fees in the interim or until other funding possibilities could be decided upon. Motion to approve the TAC's recommendation was made by Basil Rotschey, second received by Nathan Ek. Motion approved unanimously

**Action:** Marni will convey the TAC's decision on requesting the BOH to hold action on EPH O&M report fee and Septage Tipping Fees until further notice; and their request to cover O&M critical deficiency costs with the general fund.

Marni informed the OSS TAC that a Public Hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Service Center Commissioner's Boardroom. She encouraged members to contact the commissioners by phone prior to the meeting and to show up that day.

## **VI. CHECKLIST**

Matt gave a brief history of the "Designer-Installer Checklist" as currently formatted. Mike and Basil met to draft the first proposal change. The OSS team then made further reviews of their draft, which resulted in adjustments by adding more designer signature involvement. We knew there would be some feedback to these changes, but further discussion was tabled until our new program manager was on board.

The format of the checklist has improved, however, Mike pointed out about 10 items that he, as a designer, has issues with. The following items are: 17, 18, 26, 28, 29, 30, 34, 35, 36, 40, and 39 is a duplicate of 14. Basil stated that the system designs and the checklist should always be available in GIS and include all of the system components and specifications. Matt, Mike and Aaron will meet over the next week for further discussion on the above components of the Designer/Installer Checklist and will be brought to a future meeting.

## **VII. FLOAT SETTINGS**

Mike shared an incident regarding a time dose septic system he had just corrected. The system's pump chamber was installed with the float settings that were approximately 20" apart, the timer float had an on/off switch with a Liberty 283 pump and the dose wasn't activated until 45° up, and the alarm float was a signal and was not activated until it was approximately level. What happened when they used the shower, was that the timer would be activated, pump about 20 gallons, and as soon as the shower was completed the alarm would go off. The homeowners thought that this was a standard function of the system, and would stagger showers, laundry, etc. Float settings on as-builts don't always reflect how the system actually works.

Aaron determined that further discussion be continued as an agenda item on the December's Installer Workshop.

## **VIII. OSS BACK-UP**

Steve brought up a need to have a clear definition of the term "back-up" in relation to the d-box,

- ▶ How to report it on onlineRME.
- ▶ Report measurements of the d-box
- ▶ Report why the tank is backing up
- ▶ Report pumping d-box and lines backing up
- ▶ Report the corrected deficiency on onlineRME
- ▶ If the system needs further investigation, report this in the comment field.

## **IX. STRESS TEST**

Aaron reported that the use of the OSS stress or hydraulic test was discussed at a recent WOSSA meeting. A subcommittee was formed to discuss the parameters of the test, when to put the test to use, and define how to use the test in alternative systems. The stress test is not a guarantee if the septic system has failed.

## **X. GREYWATER REGULATIONS**

With an increasing demand on existing water supplies a keen interest in generating affordable, safe, and easy methods to reuse water. Aaron reported that [Chapter 246-274 WAC](#), Greywater Reuse for Subsurface Irrigation, has been adopted into rule and will become effective July 31, 2011. Local health jurisdictions have authority over greywater systems, and a few are already in existence. WA is working on a guidance document that will provide technical information for designers to use when designing a Tier 2 or 3 greywater irrigation system.

## **X1. Next TAC Meeting**

Aaron requested feedback on the TAC meeting format:

- ▶ Maintain quarterly meetings
- ▶ Maintain 3-5:00 p.m. format
- ▶ Email Agenda items to Aaron at [aaron.henderson@clark.wa.gov](mailto:aaron.henderson@clark.wa.gov)

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Aaron Henderon at 5:10 pm; seconded by Matt Wiard.

**NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, September 14, 2011**