

Approved Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
March 14, 2006

Members present: Roger Thompson Bernie Chenette
 Alan Huizenga Barb Willis
 Allison Lowry Gail Center
 Steve Revell Jeff Williams
 Spencer Harris Kim Greenwood
 Phil Dechert Rodney Pingree
 Gerry Kittle John Forcier

Others present: Frank O'Brien

Scheduled meetings:

April 11, 2006	1-4 PM	Mad Tom Room, Osgood Building
May 9, 2006	1-4 PM	Room 100 Stanley Hall
June 6, 2006	1-4 PM	Room 100 Stanley Hall

Review of agenda

An item was added related to the well driller's concerns

Review of minutes

The draft minutes of the February 7, 2006 meeting were reviewed and accepted as drafted.

Status of the Options Paper

Roger reported that Commissioner Wennberg had written to the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee, in response to their request for an Agency position on the Options Paper for discharging systems. He had indicated support for the technical requirements proposed for seasonal discharging systems related to design, construction, maintenance and oversight. He indicated concerns with the cost of these systems, \$38k - \$40k. He also indicated that a statutory change would be needed so that sheet flow that eventually reaches surface waters would not be considered to be a direct discharge subject to the NPDES requirements.

Steve said he had talked to a few legislators about the report. They had indicated that the systems were too expensive.

Roger noted that the Commissioner's letter indicated that the Agency is committed to pursuing other options.

Other Options

Rodney asked about use of incinerating toilets. Roger stated that they are acceptable now, along with composting toilets. Roger noted that TAC might evaluate systems that depend on reuse of treated wastewater with a smaller leachfield. These have been approved for the Sharon Rest Area. John noted that ski areas are reusing treated water for toilet flushing. There are at least a few zero discharge systems that depend on evapo-transpiration. Steve suggested that TAC should not spend too much time on "chase your tail" approaches.

Phil suggested that TAC should do some work on small community systems (decentralized) that would help promote growth centers.

Spencer raised the concept of management zones, where the rules would require larger lots, with large leachfields with large setbacks to property lines. The systems would be large mounds designed prescriptively and that wet toes would be acceptable.

Steve discussed the "working" issues, with a suggestion that while many replacement systems constructed using the best fix approach seem to work, that in some cases this is because of under utilization. Frank suggested that some people with marginal systems are likely to be careful with water use.

Status of rule revisions

Roger has to take all of the changes that were drafted for revision that were not adopted in 2005 and add those changes to the 2005 version of the rules. In addition there is a checklist of issues that have been identified since 2005 that are being included as well. The goal is to have these out for internal review within two months.

Legislative Rumors

John noted that there is proposed legislation that would require continuing education for professional engineers.

Surface Water Systems

Rodney reviewed the options paper for surface water systems. The subcommittee met February 13, 2006 and reviewed issues that needed to be addressed. These issues are presented in the current draft of the paper. It appears that there are systems that are technically capable of treating the commonly known threats. They are expensive and require maintenance in order to ensure proper operation. One big issue with surface water is the rapid changes in water quality that occur from season to season, when the

wind blows, and when large rainfalls occur which may also result in overflows from wastewater treatment facilities. There are also concerns about the approvals that would be needed from the Corps of Engineers for the intake structure because year-round systems would require a system installed below grade from the building out into water deep enough to not freeze at any time during the year. This type of construction needs permits and could be difficult with rocky or bedrock shorelines. Rodney noted that the subcommittee was inclined to not be supportive of surface water sources for new uses, including conversions from seasonal to year-round use.

Kim noted that the Agency Lakes and Ponds section might also require permits for any intake structures.

The committee reviewed the options paper and concluded that it would not support the use of new surface water systems.

Alan indicated that the rules should deal with the continued use of existing systems because the existing rules would consider most of them to be failed systems. John echoed this, noting that this comes up in property transfers.

Sub-committees:

The subcommittee to look into ground water monitoring and calculated ground water mounding will include Craig, Steve, Allison, Bruce Douglas, Dave Cotton, and Roger.

The subcommittee to look into the use of the “window” approach will include Steve, Spencer, Justin Willis, Lance Phelps, and Roger

Rodney will try to arrange for the well driller’s subcommittee to meet just before a regular TAC meeting.

San Francisco Conference

Frank reported on a conference he attended in San Francisco. The concept of decentralized systems was a major issue. There is some tension between SORA and NOWRA. California is working on concepts that would protect some areas using the concepts of pollution trading. This would include the TMDL concepts. Joyce Hudson, EPA, spoke about management issues and a new tracking system. Julie Beth Hinds indicated that under the current approach all the money is being directed towards stormwater management and that wastewater issues should get some of this to help protect surface waters.

Innovative systems

Frank said that two draft approvals have been issued, with copies to TAC members. He said that a draft approval for the Infiltrator system should be issued soon.

Possible rule changes

The issue of whether, in some cases, only 6" of sand should be required under a mound was identified and John asked that it be added to the list.

The mound sand requirements were discussed briefly, and Alan suggested contacting pits to see what is actually available.

Items prioritized for discussion with high, low, and medium ranking

1. Mound sand specifications **high**
2. Encourage I/A **low**
3. Soil identification vs. perc test **medium**
4. Colorado rule **low**
5. Permit by certification **low**
6. Lake water potable water supplies **high**
7. Curtain drain with presumption of effectiveness **high**
8. Terralift system **low**
9. Field change policy **high**
10. Revisions to desktop hydro chart **medium**
11. Minimum amount of sand under a mound **high**
12. Grandfathered design flow and conversion of use policy **high**
13. Updating of design flow chart **high**

Topics list - items not ready for drafting for inclusion in rule revisions

1. Drip disposal
2. Mound sand requirements
3. Encourage I/A
4. Changing the 20% slope restriction to 30%
5. Replacing perc test with soil identification approach
6. Defining when effluent is no longer wastewater
7. Disinfection
8. Colorado Rule – reduction in isolation distance to wells based on construction methods
9. Certification and audit approach to permitting
10. Lake water systems
11. Curtain drains
12. Terra-Lift System
13. Installation certification language
14. Field change policy

15. Revise existing desktop hydro chart
16. Conversion of use policy, including grandfathered flows
17. Revise design flows
18. Increased loading rate
19. Wells shields across property lines
20. Whether less than 12” of sand should be allowed under mound systems

Executive Committee

John Forcier, Steve Revell, Lance Phelps, Phil Dechert, and Roger Thompson
Alternates – Chris Thompson, Bernie Chenette, Spencer Harris, Jeff Williams

Subcommittees

Hydrogeology - Allison Lowry, Craig Heindel, Dave Cotton and Steve Revell.

Training subcommittee - John Forcier, Roger Thompson, Allison Lowry, Dave Cotton, and Barbara Willis.

Licensed designers - Spencer Harris, Alan Huizenga, and Gerry Kittle.

Well driller’s knowledge checklist - Jeff Williams, Rodney Pingree, Roger Thompson, Bernie Chenette, Gail Center and Steve Revell.

Interested in the delegation rules - Spencer Harris, Gerry Kittle, Phil Dechert, and Alan Huizenga

Drip Disposal – Frank O’Brien, Roger Thompson, Dave Cotton, Steve Revell, Alan Huizenga

Legislative field trip – Phil Dechert, Gerry Kittle, Dave Cotton, Roger Thompson

Lake water – Alan Huizenga, Gail Center, Rodney Pingree, Lance Phelps

Surfacing systems – Craig Heindel, Steve Revell, Frank O’Brien, Roger Thompson, Bruce Douglas, Gail Center, and Brian Kooiker.