

Mason County Onsite Sewage Advisory Committee

Meeting minutes for 10/13/2020

- 1) Call to order: 5:06 PM Zoom meeting
- 2) Roll call and determination of Quorum (6)
Present: Paula Johnson, Keith Fuller, Thad Bamford, Evie Fagergren, Constance Ibsen, Rhonda Thompson, Alex Paysse (county)
- 3) Guest introductions- none
- 4) Approval of 8/11/2020 minutes. Minutes approved as presented.
- 5) Public Comments and County updates
Thad asked for an update on new committee members. Alex updated us with all current members.
County updates: Alex reviewed OSS stats that he prepared from last meeting. Constance talked about how understaffed the county is to be able to respond to and enforce on deficient OSS inspections. Alex explained the advantage of RME and being able to prioritize overt failures for mailouts.
Public comments: None
- 6) Old Business
6.1) Membership appointment process, see attached draft bylaw updates for review/approval. Alex updated us on the revisions made to the bylaws. This would change the selection of OSAC members by the Mason County Board of Health to the Mason County Board of County Commissioners per the Mason County Boards and Commissions Handbook. Moved and seconded, approved as presented.
Paula said she was not able to find a builder to join the group yet.
- 7) New business
Constance asked why RME does not include LOSS sites and if it would be possible to change that. Alex agreed he would also like to have access to maintenance records for LOSS systems but explained that LOSS systems are managed by the State. He explained there is little we could do at the county level to require this and not sure if this request is within the scope of this committee.

Thad asked whether a pumper could inspect a gravity system for a property sale. Alex explained for a property sale, the system must be up to the date with maintenance. For a gravity system, this means it needs to have been inspected by a pumper, O&M specialist, and homeowner within the last three years. However, for a property sale, the homeowner is excluded from the list of approved providers.

Alex asked for suggestions on what this committee should be working on and if it would be agreeable to meet less frequently until the new WAC comes out. It was suggested that the committee could work on updating Mason County Standards and/or Regulations but the group had originally decided to wait until the WAC changes, and due to COVID this may not happen until June 2022. The committee discussed at previous meetings that time could be spent working on homeowner education of septic systems through trainings and educational handouts. Constance suggested maybe the county could provide space for a meeting. Some members expressed they would not be comfortable meeting in person at this time. Keith agreed this committee is very important but since we are not covering a lot of material at this time due to the delay of the WAC changes, he suggested going to Quarterly or semi-annual to maintain continuity and interest in the group. Paula suggested quarterly. Evie suggested meeting in December and then revisiting this topic with more members present. Everyone agreed.

8) Next Meeting Date: December 8 at 5pm

9) Adjourn- 5:50pm