

Mason County Onsite Sewage Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes for 03/12/2024

1. **Call to order:** 5:00 pm at Public Works by Wes Graves
2. **Roll call and determination of Quorum: (6 required)**
Present: Constance Ibsen, Vladimir Nekrutenko, Keith Fuller, Paula Johnson, Shane Maples, Wes Graves, Thad Bamford
3. **Guest Introductions:** Dave Anderson – MCPH, Shelly Bellisle – MCPH, Rhonda Thompson – MCPH, Ian Tracy – MCPH,
4. **Review & Approval of minutes:** Paula motioned to approve the minutes from 12/12/2023, seconded by Constance. **Motion passed.**
5. **Public Comment and County Updates:** Thad stated that he thinks that the deficiency letters that we mailed out were a success. Constance asked if there would be any follow-up for the letters that went out and we didn't get a response for. Andrea will be working on this as time allows.

Paula talked about a new Craft 3 grant program that will be available after April 1, 2024. This is a grant program for low income. Anyone with an income below \$45,000 will be able to apply. Income \$35,000 or less can get up to \$30,000 and income between 35,000 and 45,000 can get up to \$15,000. This will be huge for this county to help with repairs and failures.

Ian discussed the new WAC. It has been approved by the State Department of Health. It will have staggering effective dates, most starting in March of 2025. DOH will be holding training for EH staff and once that training is complete, the staff will pass that along to the providers.

Dave talked about rebate funding and at this time we are out of money for rebates. Hoping to have more funding for this in July. Work can't be done before the funding comes in. Constance asked how the rebates were distributed, there is targeted outreach by county staff and providers.

5.1 Membership Updates: James Medcalf applied again to keep his position on the committee. Currently we have 4 positions open, 2 citizen positions, 1 designer position and 1 shellfish position. Ian did a press release for the vacancies.

5.2 Permits and Mailouts- Rhonda talked about the next maintenance mailing that will be going out. This is for systems that have not had maintenance or pumping in the last 3 years. There will be 300 a week going out over a 3-month period.

6. Old Business:

6.1 Solutions for overdue as-builts-There was a discussion around this, and possibly changing the language in the enforcement section of the code. Talked about trying to take a complaint driven drive on this and see how that works.

6.2 Using pumps in gravity systems- This was brought on by a letter from a designer about pump tank vs pump basin. After some discussion regarding the language change in the code, Paula and Rhonda will work on this and bring it back to the committee.

7. New Business-:

7.1 Elect Vice-President- Wes made a motion to elect Paula the vice-president, Vlad seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

7.2 Eljen Geotextile Sand Filters- Paula brought this up since it is state approved and helps with drainfield reductions. Mason County does not allow for drainfield reductions currently. Paula thinks that this might help give some flexibility to those sites that have no room for repairs or replacements. Ian asked if other neighboring counties have used this product? Paula will gather some data on other counties and long-term data using this product and bring it back to the committee. Ideas of using product for repairs only and with a waiver. More discussion once there is more state data.

7.3 Basic Sanitation Policy-Ian presented a draft policy that he is taking to the BOH for approval. There is no action set at this point, just discussion. Constance stated that it needs to be consistent and fair for everyone. She also stated that there needs to be a list of dump disposal locations so the community knows where they can dispose of waste. Keith is in support of the policy but there needs to be a list of pumpers and dump sites to go with it. Needs the tools and structure.

Close of meeting: Motion to adjourn by Keith Fuller, seconded by Paula Johnson at 6:45 p.m.

Next meeting: June 11, 2024