

Mason County Onsite Sewage Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes for 06/11/2024

1. **Call to order:** 5:00 pm at Public Works by Wes Graves
2. **Roll call and determination of Quorum: (6 required)**
3. **Present:** Constance Ibsen, Keith Fuller, Paula Johnson, Wes Graves, James Medcalf, and Vladimir Nekrutenko.
4. **Guest Introductions:** Ian Tracy (MCPH), Dave Anderson (MCPH), Andrea Tubens (MCPH), Alex Garcia (MCPH), and Teri King.
5. **Review & Approval of minutes:** Constance Ibsen motioned to approve the minutes from 03/12/2024, seconded by Vladimir Nekrutenko. **Motion passed.**
6. **Public Comments and County Updates:** Ian Tracy stated that Keith Fuller's position on OSAC had been extended for 3 years to 7/23/2027. Ian also noted that Board of Health meetings will now be held quarterly rather than bimonthly.
 - 6.1 **Membership updates and Vacancies:** Currently, there are 3 positions open; 1 citizen position, 1 designer position, and 1 shellfish industry position.
 - 6.2 **Permits and Mailouts:** Dave Anderson discussed the March 2024 septic mailing for Conventional Pressurized and Open-Bottom Sand Filter systems that require an annual Pumping or Operations and Maintenance (O&M) inspection. He stated that 3,527 letters were mailed to Mason County residents who were overdue for septic maintenance. Constance Ibsen asked about the number of responses to the mailings and the current number of septic permits. Dave discussed how the letters were intended to encourage septic system owners to perform routine maintenance and that the number of responses was lower than other types of septic letters. He also stated that response data was not collected. Ian Tracy added that the main goal was to get deficiency letters out to homeowners. Ian discussed the surveillance work that Andrea Tubens was doing with onlineRME to close septic deficiency cases that had been resolved. Andrea explained the process for opening, investigating, and closing septic code enforcement cases. Dave gave an update on the current number of septic permits for 2024 and stated that septic permits can now be applied for online. Dave noted that Paula Johnson had successfully submitted a septic design using the online application process. Paula then commented on the online process and format. Ian Tracy discussed the differences between applying for a septic permit using the new online method versus the old paper copies procedure. He also stated that the online method will continue to be refined as improvements and adjustments are made.
7. **Old business:** Paula Johnson discussed changing the language of the current code to clarify the septic system requirement for ADU permits. Paula discussed the current need for time dosing, elapse meters, and event counters in the drainfield requirements section of the Mason County

Public Health On-Site Standards and how the requirement applied to pump-to-gravity septic systems. Ian discussed upcoming changes to WAC246-272A.

8. **New business:** Paula Johnson discussed reduced drainfield sizing criteria for new septic technology. Vladimir Nekrutenko discussed septic problems associated with short-term rentals, such as Airbnb, focusing on the impacts on the commercial shellfish industry from shoreline properties.

Close of meeting: Motion to adjourn by Keith Fuller, seconded by Vladimir Nekrutenko at 6:45 pm.

Next meeting: September 10, 2024.