



Lagoon Committee - Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2009, 11:00 AM

Allendale Charter Township WWTP

Meeting Host: Mr. Michael Barricklow

Attendees: Bill Ribbens (City of Belding), Steve Barnard (Muskegon County Wastewater), Michael Barricklow (Allendale Public Works), Mark Dezinski (Fremont), Rich Grant (F&V), Mark Winchester (Wright Twp-Ottawa Co WWSL), David Carter

Not in Attendance: Joe Keefe (MWEA Liaison)

1. Welcome by Bill Ribbens, Committee Chair, and Mike Barricklow, Meeting Host
2. Reviewed and approved June 16, 2009 minutes submitted by Rich Grant, Committee Secretary
3. Business
 - a) Follow up: still plan to ship out a survey email as noted last meeting (email to Lagoon Committee members and attendees asking for permit conditions that seem difficult and/or unnecessary). Bill and Rich will pursue this.
 - b) Open discussion of topics of interest for next year's seminar:
 - Tom Berdinski has a basic starting lagoon operations and draft Lagoon Permit that shows "standard" language. Can we edit the language? Meetings needed to negotiate these changes.
 - How can we get MDEQ to allow use of (wetland) vegetation in a WWTF lagoon for polishing?
 - Can we get a Duckweed control "state of the art" presentation, perhaps from MDEQ and some Engineer/Scientist? Duckweed occurs most commonly in highly polished ponds. Mark Dezinski has a procedure (David uses it too; Mark will summarize it and distribute) to transfer a bulk volume of water one foot at a time to significantly lower WL over a few days, thereby controlling their duckweed. Mark's pond depths vary from 6.5 to 11.5 ft and can be dropped down to 2 feet over a few days. They are discharging all summer.
 - Weed control - also need to consider light penetration depths from shallow water level operations. Operating at shallow water levels for long care lead to extra weed growth.
 - Procedure for discharge Permit Amendment: Operators should be informed of options to improve their permit conditions. Summarize the regulations regarding testing frequency and parameters (can be negotiated); amend permit after a number of results show non-detect or way below limits consistently, seasonal vs. continuous discharge, flow and mass based discharge limits, delete parameters (Mark Dezinski does this a lot). Identify examples of where MDEQ did work with the POTWs to improve permit conditions.



- SEMINAR TOPICS – Initial thoughts regarding focus: Compliance & Operations Focus
 - 1) Discharge Permit Negotiations and requests for an “addendum” to permit
 - 2) State of the Art in Duckweed Control
 - 3) BOD in groundwater discharges consumes oxygen and can mobilize arsenic, iron and manganese
 - 4) Natural Systems (vegetation) used for polishing in lagoons WWTPs, ensure protection from burrowing animals, evaluate habitat for waterfowl versus operational nuisance
 - 5) “Weed” management - harvesting, chemical treatment in lagoons
 - 6) Seasonal and Non-human coliform source issues – EPA says all coliforms must be killed wherever associated with POTW facilities, regardless of source. Winter coliform under ice cover (who is swimming in the winter?)
 - 7) Other Topics next meeting
 - Seminar location and date - Thursday February 25, 2010 and location Eagle Eye near Lansing
 - Set next meeting date – October 20, 2009 11:00AM at location TBD
4. Other business, info, questions, and comments from attendees: None
 5. Adjourn to lunch provided by MWEA Lagoon Committee
 6. Allendale WWTP Plant tour with host Mike Barricklow

