

Minutes: new 'Onsite Committee' - (see proposed new name)

Briefing: After much discussion during the summer of 2009, it was the consensus of Past Committee Chair John Porter and current Chair Dendra Best that the focus of the Onsite Committee needed to be reexamined. The initial reason for the Committee had been to develop septage disposal guidelines. Several members left the Committee feeling that a) their job was done and b) there was more to non-municipal systems than just septage issues.

In the Summer MWEA Matters magazine a call was published to invite all interested members, both past and potential new members to come together to discuss desired directions and goals for this Committee.

Seven individuals expressed a desire to serve. Two asked to be kept informed.
MWEA Board Liaison is Keith McCormack P.E. Vice President Hubbell, Roth & Clark

On Friday, October 30, 2009 a meeting was held at the Soaring Eagle Inn, Mt. Pleasant.

Meeting called to order at 12.37 pm.

Present: Chair Dendra Best. Executive Director Onsite Wastewater of NW MI
John Bresler - JETT Pump & Valve LLC
Jim Rabine - Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick Inc.
Joe Moore P.E. - DuBois-Cooper Associates, Inc.
Rick Solle P.E. - Director of Public Services Plainfield Charter Township

Absent with regrets:

Joe Goergen - Genesee County Drain Commission
John Porter P.E. - Senior Process Engineer. Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, Inc
Mike Stephens - SCS Systems LLC
Keith McCormack P.E. Vice President Hubbell, Roth & Clark. MWEA Board Liaison

All Committee members were asked to send a photo and a brief biographical sketch and a statement about why they are interested in developing this Committee to the Chair for posting to the MWEA website.

Each of the members present listed topics they saw as falling within the scope of this committee: controlling stormwater via decentralized systems; community based maintenance agreements; having Committee liaisons with MDEQ SORA representative, MRWA, MTA and MML; Time Of Sale discussions; municipal education particularly in the area of case studies and promotion of the financial advantage of decentralized systems for small cluster developments.

Members asked if MWEA can provide a list of municipalities who are members.
Members suggested a presentation should be developed on successful small municipal or residential cluster systems - target audience both MWEA members and the general public, as should be all our activities.

Members listed terms which should be included in a description of this Committee:

education - awareness - economic - practical - standardized components - uniform enforceable requirements. Then we reviewed the following:

Current Committee description: "To find practical and economic solutions for domestic septage disposal and to protect human health and the environment through uniform, consistent, and enforceable local, state, and federal requirements."

The Committee had previously reviewed:

a) the WEF Small Community Committee web page http://www.wef.org/Members/page_committees_details.aspx?id=395

b) the WEF Memorandum of Understanding for Decentralized Wastewater Management at http://www.wef.org/GovernmentAffairs/page_cs.aspx?id=1726&terms=MOU

c) the proposed Strategic Planning document for MWEA

The Members respectfully will propose the following as the new Mission Statement for this proposed **Decentralized Wastewater Committee** to better reflect the inclusive nature of representing all individual and clustered systems:

To promote practical, economic and sustainable decentralized wastewater systems which protect human health and the environment through uniform, consistent, and enforceable local and statewide regulation.

Members discussed the barriers to effective statewide onsite wastewater codes and reviewed past attempts to implement a statewide sanitary code.

An achievable goal for 2010 was listed as bringing together a smaller group of individuals, with approval of the MWEA Board, to host an informal discussion on where there is a consensus of consent on segments of a statewide standard.

For example: a standard for tank construction and testing to include inspection ports, cast-in-place lip for installing/requiring a riser, boots to protect inlet and outlet etc.

an installer credential, a standardized disclosure document similar to that used in MN.

Suggested topics for Seminars and Workshops:

Rx residual fate in septic systems and small cluster advanced technology.

Effluent Filter systems

EPA Memorandum of Understanding as it translates to MI

Each Member was asked to suggest a workshop topic

Officers. The following agreed to serve.

Vice Chair. Jim Rabine

Secretary/Treasurer. Rick Solle

Meeting adjourned at 3.37 pm

Next Meeting to be held via conference call.