

Mason County Onsite Sewage Advisory Committee

Meeting minutes for 11/12/2019

1. Call to order 5:00 PM

2. Roll call and determination of Quorum

- Present: Dale, Jim, Kim, Duane (Father of Eevee from PCSGA), Keith, Thad, Micah, James, Toby, Darin
- Absent: Wes

3. Guest introductions:

- Teri King (Sea Grant)
- Alex Paysse (Mason County)
- Rhonda Elliott (Mason County)

4. Approval of 9/10/2019 minutes

- Minutes approved as presented

5. Public Comments

- Teri brought up the pumping manual. Teri questioned if it was the most recent copy.

6. Old business:

6.3 Pumping manual

- Discussion about pumping manual and its origins. Pumpers made the document in the late 1990s. Was approved by board of health in 2000 but quickly became outdated with the push of the new O&M programs which including a full inspection in addition to pumping.
- Duane asked whether counties have their own regulations with respect to pumping standards etc or whether we rely on state regulations. Dale explained pumping manual and the online RME program. Alex added on.
- Keith described the importance of standardization of pumping procedures among providers.
- Thad brought up the issue of not all pumpers having all the required CEUs for certification.
- Discussion about the legitimacy of the pumping manual. Alex brought the letter of approval from the board of health which Dale read aloud.
- Darin agrees with Thad, in that all employees of a company should be certified.
- Thad brought up concerns with holding tanks. Pumping companies with very large holding tanks (30,000 gallons) have no oversight or checking to see if they are watertight. Dale suggested we talk about this at next meeting.
- Alex discussed Title 6 requirements regarding professional development hours. Pumpers are not required, but installers and O&M specialists are required. We are not asking people to supply them at the end of every year. We currently are just looking into the CEUs when a complaint arises about an individual.

- Kim asked how much time would be involved to track professional development hours. Alex explained the Licensing cycle.
- Jim suggested as an option taking a random sample from our providers (10%) to supply the CEUs to the county so we can get an idea of how qualified our entire pool is with regard to CEUs.
- Alex suggested we see how online RME goes with our pumpers, table it for a couple months, and if needed revisit it.

6.1 OnlineRME updates

- Discussion about online RME. Alex provided updates on county status. Upcoming workshop to help with provider questions.

6.2 Building permit policy

- Dale described the status of the work he was doing with this. Being tabled again for future discussion.

7. New business

- Dale asked about deficiencies on septic or building permits when checking permit status online. Alex is going to investigate making portal updates.
- Duane asked about maintenance schedules in Mason County and if it is required and enforced. Alex talked about the LMP and how the county sends letters out, enforces, etc.
- Alex requested a list of ideas for 2020 from the committee. We will then prioritize them and plan for 2020. Alex suggested not every month, but perhaps every other month or quarterly. Kim agreed that if we have a plan it may not be necessary to meet every month. Alex will compile a list of topic ideas for group to review at next meeting.
- Teri King wants to discuss shellfish closures and downgrades with providers. She likes the pumping manuals because it does say that pumpers are required to report failures within a certain period. Alex stated this is also included in Title 6. She wants to address complaints about certified contractors.
- Discussion about committee members and role of Mason County in the committee. Alex stated he does not have a designated employee at this time for application but is making sure the county's role is being performed and staff attends meetings for input and collaboration.
- Darin asked about Hose test on drainfields. Standard? Do we want to establish a standard? The question on online RME regarding stress tests, why is it there? Alex explained.

8. Next Meeting date

- December 10th @ 5pm