

**Mason County Onsite Sewage Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting minutes for 01/12/2021**

- 1) Call to order: 5:03 PM Zoom meeting
- 2) Roll call and determination of Quorum (10)  
Present: James Medcalf, Kim Delaney, Darin Ogg, Wes Graves, Jim Henry, Constance Ibsen, Keith Fuller, Paula Johnson, Evie Fagergren, Rhonda Thompson, Alex Paysee (country)
- 3) Determination of 2021 President and Vice President  
Evie was nominated for 2021 President and Evie accepted. Jim Henry was nominated for 2021 Vice President and Jim accepted.
- 4) Guest introductions- none
- 5) Approval of 10/13/2020 minutes. Kim had questions about what a LOSS system is from last meeting. Jim responded and explained a LOSS is a Large Onsite Septic System and is for design flows of 3,500 gallons per day or more. Keith made a motion to approve minutes. Jim and Evie seconded. Minutes were approved as presented.
- 6) Public Comments and County updates:  
Evie and Kim requested a list of all the members and who they represent. Alex said he would send the list out to everyone on committee.

Alex discussed permitting updates for 2020 and said we saw a 30% increase in permit applications received by the county last year. Alex said we have sent ~830 deficiency letters this year, a septic blitz mailing in the summer, and attended the WSU homeowners septic workshop. Rhonda talked about RME mailings, response rate, and correction rate. Alex said he had a meeting with DOH regarding the WAC changes last November and said he would get the proposed changes out to members to review.

Constance asked questions about the new subsurface drip RS&Gs and how these changes impact septic system work in Mason County. Jim explained the advantages of drip systems and situations in which they are often used. Alex talked about Geoflow vs Netafim drip systems and that the revisions seemed pretty minor but hadn't had a chance to fully review.

- 7) Old Business:  
Kim brought up the topic of public outreach that has been discussed in prior meetings and if we were still up for working on that. Keith responded that this work will likely be on hold until COVID restrictions allow for public meetings. Constance finds that it is more effective to do outreach in neighborhoods close to where people reside. She shared her story of her own septic system and small fixes that were caught early during regular inspections which may have prevented a costly future repair. Kim shared that she has found community members hesitant

to have local septic maintenance meetings for fear of having expensive repairs required. Kim said she was contacted by the county to do a dye test which she admitted to being nervous about, but results showed system was functioning. Evie said those stories could be helpful to share with the public during these future outreach events.

#### **7.1) 2021 Meeting Schedule**

Alex brought up our meeting schedule and asked members for suggestions on how often we should meet. Kim thinks twice a year is not enough. Jim Henry agreed. Kim suggested quarterly meetings. Most people agreed. We decided to have quarterly meetings.

- 8) New business:** Darin discussed the hose test and explained that after doing research he finds it is only useful for gravity septic systems that are not currently in use. He says during an inspection, it is impossible to know how much water has already been used so far in that day, so it does not make sense to send a daily volume of water to the system if that will now equate to more than the daily design flow. Therefore, running a hose test on a currently used gravity system is not a valid test. Darin does keep a water meter with him and will look up the asbuilt to know how many gallons per day system is designed for. Alex talked about the RME questions that we adopted as a standard set. The hydraulic test question ended up on the list of questions but we have not discussed whether to remove or keep it. Darin suggests removing that question from our RME report and he would prefer to use it as a diagnostic test. Keith appreciated Darin bringing it up. Alex suggested we can bring the RME pumping and inspection reports to the next meeting to discuss the questions on it. Everyone agreed.

Darin would also like to see a certified provider (pumper or O&M) on site during all OSS inspections and not just individuals working for a certified company. Most people agreed that a certified provider should be on site, and not just working for a company who has a certified provider working there. Alex said there is nothing in our code that requires a certified professional be on site during the inspection. Alex said there may be some WAC changes coming up that may address it.

Thad sent Alex and Rhonda an email with some WAC revisions. Alex will get proposed WAC revisions out to all our members soon.

- 9) Next meeting date**  
April 13,2021 at 5pm

Close of meeting 5:54 PM