

**Clark County OSS
Technical Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2010**

I. INTRODUCTION/APPROVAL OF JULY 14, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

Tom Gonzales opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees. The following people were present: Pat Reis, Cory McNair, Pete Roberts, Mike Williams, Matt Wiard, Mark Collier, Basil Rotschy, Dale Waliezer, Tom Gonzales, Matt John, Mark Hill, Steve Keirn, Janis Koch, and Debbie Aultman.

July 14, 2010 OSS TAC meeting minutes were reviewed with no discussion.

Action: July 14, 2010 OSS TAC meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda was reviewed and requests were made to add the following additional items to the agenda under Item #8, Other:

- Dates on O & M Inspection Reports
- Fee increases / potential ad hoc meeting
- Clark County staff digging soil test holes on property
- Finals for tank only, when pressure distribution systems are involved

Action: October 30, 2010 OSS TAC Meeting Agenda unanimously approved with additions

III. O&M PERFORMANCE MEASURES SNAPSHOT

Tom introduced Janis Koch, Program Evaluation Manager with CCPH. She explained to members that the Logic Model process is a tool that has been used by program managers and evaluators to describe the effectiveness of their programs. The model describes logical link among program resources, activities, outputs, audiences, and short-, intermediate-, and long-term outcomes. Once a program has been described in terms of the logic model, critical measures of performance can then be identified.

- An example of a key performance measure for the OSS program would be measuring the critical deficiencies operation; are the numbers raising or falling?
- Create graphs to highlight the performance measures numbers (quantitative data)
- Look at major challenges/barriers that deter positive solutions
- Look at success stories (qualitative data)

Janis requested that OSS operators email to her the basic details of success stories that are based on actual events they have encountered.

IV. DOH Wastewater Technical Advisory Committee

Tom reported that WA-DOH has now approved a voluntary Wastewater Technical Advisory Group (TAG). The TAG was formed as a result of enacted legislation eliminating many state boards and committees on June 30, 2010, among them the Technical Advisory Committee. Individuals in the TAG represent different areas of practice (designers, installers, O&M specialists), local regulators, and manufacturers. The purpose of the TAG is to advise the department on technical matters regarding on-site sewage system design and location, development of standards and guidance, and the review of on-site sewage technologies. There are a few seats that remain open if anyone from our committee would be interested in joining.

V. Retrofitted ATU's in Existing Septic Tanks

An aerobic system might be retrofitted to a conventional septic system in an attempt to extend the life of a conventional drainfield. Also, adding aeration or oxygen to a septic system may boost aerobic bacterial action in the biomat, improving the drainfield function. When changes are made to the septic component, it should be noted on onlineRME per Eric Evans. He requests that the manufacturer and the model no. be reported in the comment field. Currently when a change of this type is made, a repair permit must be generated.

VI. Variance Procedure for DOH RS&G's

Clark County has adopted WA-DOH Recommended Standards and Guidelines (RS&G) for wastewater treatment systems. However, if there is a project that does not meet the standards/guideline, a mitigation plan may be drafted. This plan will state at the onset that it does not meet the RS&G's, and is proposing to problem solve with staff to determine a reasonable solution to benefit the project.

VII. Recycled Crushed Glass – Potential for Use in Sand Filters

Sand filters are a common option to conventional on-site septic treatment systems. When the drainfield for a septic treatment system does not meet percolation standards, a sand filter creates an area with the correct saturation for effluent from the septic treatment system. Pete DuBois, Sustainability Coordinator for Clark County, proposed using crushed recycled glass in place of sand in a sand filter which may lower construction costs and minimize the potential of system failures. The county did a trial test using recycled glass from the Lower River Road Waste Management site. Glass was ground in various sizes down to ½” but it did not meet the regulation standard, but it could be used in addition to the sand and gravel to provide an adequate filter. Waste Management will work with manufacturers to change the sieve screen size from ½” to 3/8”, and then test again for compatible specifications.

VIII. Other

A. Dates on O & M Inspection Reports

Basil inquired why inspections that are performed earlier than the date generated by the Envision Connect database, result in an earlier date for the next inspection. Following this pattern, it penalizes those who inspect earlier than the due date, and commends those who inspect later than their due date. Mark explained Envision automatically generates the future 3-year inspection date from the date entered for the most recent inspection.

☑ **Action:** Tom will meet with Paula Mair, IT, to discuss if options are available to change EnvisionConnect postings to dates other than the standard 3 year. Tom will respond back to TAC.

B. Fee increases / potential ad hoc meeting

With the poor economy, Clark County is facing loss of revenue across the board. Public Health has lost 10 FTE's, specifically 1.5 in EPH. We are currently cross training EH specialists in food, septic and water programs. As a result EPH is looking to increase the fee schedule from the 2008 standard. John Wiesman will meet with Tom on Tuesday, October 26, from 2:30-3:30 pm in Room 332. He invited TAC members to attend the meeting to discuss proposed changes in the fee structure.

C. Clark County staff digging soil test holes on property

Mike stated his concern about CCPH staff digging test holes on property that was already tested and closed. He was under the impression that only engineers and designers were authorized to perform soil and site evaluations. EH specialists perform a desk review and either a complete soil/site evaluation or a concurrency inspection of a designer/engineer's soil/site evaluation. If there is a question on the soil/site evaluation, the EH specialist should first contact the designer/engineer to discuss the concern.

D. Finals for tank only, when pressure distribution systems are involved

Mike raised the question "do designers need to perform the final inspection of tank only when pressure distribution systems are involved?. Designers already require the of use elbow sweeps in Pressure Distribution OSS which are installed at the distal orifice and supply end orifice to prevent unequal application of settled sewage to the absorption facility..

Tom replied that the Final Designer/Installer checklist will be updated and he requested that Mike and Basil contribute to the process.

IX. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned by Tom Gonzales at 5:05 pm; seconded by Cory McNair.