

**Clark County OSS
Technical Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2013**

WELCOME/INTRODUCTION

Marni Storey opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees. The following people were present: Mike Williams, Mark Collier, Pat Ries, Nathan Ek, Basil Rotschy, Bob Sweeney, Cory McNair, Gary Bickett, Joe Laxson, Matthew John, Steve Keirn, Debbie Aultman-Keirn.

I. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 28, 2102 MEETING MINUTES

November 28, 2012 OSS TAC meeting minutes were reviewed with no discussion.

Action: November 28, 2012 OSS TAC meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

II. AGENDA ITEMS

APPROVAL OF MARCH 20, 2013 AGENDA

March 20, 2013 OSS TAC agenda items reviewed with no additions..

Action: March 20, 2013 OSS TAC meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

III. CCPH UPDATES

- Public Health
 - ▶ Jay Inslee has named Clark County Public Health Director John Wiesman to his Cabinet as the leader of the Washington State Department of Health. He will complete his position with the county at the end of March and take 2 weeks to move and vacation prior to beginning his post on April 15th.
 - ▶ Marni will act as Interim Director.
 - Conversations about whether to merged PH-DCS department.
 - Review different services, budgets, opportunities and challenges;
 - Obtain staff input;
 - Plan to develop a recommendation for Bill Barron and the Commissioners.
 - ▶ EPH fees will be a continuous issue in the political arena

- EPH Program Manager
 - ▶ For 6 months, Joe Laxson will be an interim public health manager in the OSS, O&M and Water programs as the future structure of the department is under review.

IV. New Report Option – online RME

- Matt informed TAC members of a feature in onlineRME that permits the O&M inspector to report a critical deficiency and the correction simultaneously assisting the county EPH specialists in tracking the improvement result data.
- Basil reported that the first reported inspection date should be the anniversary date at which all the future inspections be set. This inspection date should never changed. Currently EnvisionConnect sets the new inspection date at the time the inspection is recorded. As a result, homeowners who get their inspections done ahead of the anniversary date are being penalized for their conscientious attention to their systems.
- On the other hand, if a homeowner does not follow through with their periodic inspection date, the result enforcement could be a Notice-to-Title posted through the Assessor’s Office against the property, showing septic inspection non-compliance.

V. Septic Reconciliation

In 2010, CCPH began to contact residential and commercial owners regarding the status if their septic systems. At that time a letter and return postcard were sent requesting property owner to indicate the type of system that was being utilized. GIS provided a list of properties by school district with assessed building values of less that \$15,000. The first effort was directed to those properties in the Evergreen School District. The completion of this effort was then deferred due to staff changes, budget cuts, etc.

The reconciliation project is being reevaluated, looking to customer service databases through public utilities, updating EnvisionConnect to reflect OSS that have hooked to sewer, and onlineRME for recently abandoned septic systems. The reconciliation project will also take into account properties that have wells not identified in EnvisionConnect.

VI. 24.17 Code Review

The 24.17 Onsite Septic Rules and Regulations are to be reviewed and updated by EPH staff, industry members, CCPH Leadership Team and finally, the BOH.

- Initial review of the master document will be done by EPH staff interpreting the code document notes chronicled by Tom Gonzales and Aaron Henderson.
- A schedule of Code revision workgroup dates and times will be sent to TAC members, as well as the draft document;
- The Code revision meetings will be open to all interested TAC members.

VII. Records On-line

Clark County Public Health offers an online database of septic system records through Oracle and GIS for properties in the county. These electronic records contain septic as-built drawings, system type and in some cases notes on septic maintenance and other permit activity. All current designs, as-builts, plot plans, permits for septic systems and wells are scanned into the Oracle database for the building industry and public access. Not all systems in the county are recorded as such particularly if the wastewater system and drainfield were installed without benefit of permit or inspection. CCPH did not receive as-built drawings for some older homes (1970s and earlier) since the record keeping at that time was not as accurate. Older septic systems may not be easily accessible due to property descriptions, owner/builder names, lack of property tax ID's, etc. CCPH is continually reviewing and updating the records so that they are as accurate as possible. With the onset of the Septic Reconciliation project more wastewater septic systems will be identified.

VII. Future Topics

- Professional conduct

When complaints are discovered where industry standards have been breached, i.e. boot-leg installations, inappropriate inspections, and unreported pump reports, enforcement action may occur when there is cause to believe that licensed or certified operators are not performing to industry or regulatory standards, or are violating any law, including but not limited to the Clark County Code (24.17.240. 8.G Certification).

There may be different degrees of violation in 3 areas which would invoke varying degrees of consequence.

- a. License related issues
- b. Performance issues
- c. Unethical/illegal practices

One method of discovering violations other than by reported complaints would be for the Health Department to perform random in-office audits from online RME reports and do an as-built comparison with the components. A general standards policy will be developed and addressed at the next TAC meeting.

- CEU's

The question of using TAC meeting attendance as a method of gaining continuing education units (CEU) for installers, pumpers, and inspectors will be discussed at a later TAC meeting. Joe will bring a draft policy describing what qualifies for acceptable attendance at educational opportunities.