

Research Review and Advisory Committee for the Bureau of Onsite Sewage Programs,

Minutes of the Meeting held by Telephone Conference

September 16, 2004

Approved November 16, 2004

In attendance:

Committee Membership and Alternates: David Carter (homebuilders); John Collins (FOWA); Craig Diamond (environmental interest groups alternate); John Heber (citizen); Stan Keely (Professional Engineers alternate); Clay Tappan (Professional Engineers); Patti Sanzone (environmental interest group)

Not represented: DOH-Environmental Health; Realtors; state university system (not appointed)

Visitors: Kevin Sherman (FOWA) (received proxy by John Collins during the meeting).

Department of Health, Bureau of Onsite Sewage Programs: Eberhard Roeder

1. Introductions

- a. Call to order: A quorum of five represented groups was reached when John Collins of FOWA joined the conference call and gave Proxy to Kevin Sherman. Craig Diamond is not yet present at this time. Chair David Carter called the meeting to order at 9:45 am.

2. Review of Minutes of Meeting 06/28/04

Patti Sanzone moves and Clay Tappan seconds to approve the minutes as written. Unanimously approved.

Review and Comments on draft final report for Phase I of "Manatee Springs Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems Study" (aka "Karst Study"). Previous comments by RRAC and Dr. Kevin Sherman of FOWA have been addressed by FSU and DOH.

John Heber and David Carter did not receive the mailing package due to mailing delays. Patti Sanzone has many editorial comments. She will provide these to Eberhard Roeder directly.

Stan Keely comments on the applicability of the study to sprayfields. He has not seen as high concentrations in monitoring wells at sprayfields as the study at Manatee Spring found. He argues that the processes involved differ because at sprayfields there is a larger role of evaporation and uptake by plants. Patti Sanzone argues that while the input concentration to groundwater may be different between OSTDS and sprayfields, the observed fast transport of groundwater in Karst is applicable to both. A discussion about alternative phrases, either clarifying that concentrations may be different or replacing "sprayfields" with a reference to "similar land application disposal methods" ensues. An agreeable solution emerges in the omission of the reference to sprayfields as a specific example of inputs. In this way, the statement applies to all inputs, without singling out any particular one.

David Carter asks about the further proceeding. Eberhard Roeder suggests two options: add the comments that will be received from reviewers at the Department of Environmental Protection and Suwannee River Water Management District as an

appendix to the existing report; or incorporate the comments into a revised report. There is general agreement among participants that the second option is preferable. RRAC will discuss the revised draft at a telephone conference in November.

Craig Diamond joins.

3. Updates on other projects:

a) Nutrient-removal. Eberhard Roeder reports that he has received data from Monroe County about County Health Department sampling results at aerobic treatment units (ATU) and engineered and performance-based systems from 2000 and 2001. Data entry of paper records is close to completion. A report by Bill Brookman about the 1999 ATU sampling results showed large scatter and frequent exceedance of the regulatory target limits for the Keys in place now. The County Health Department sampling program was discontinued in 2001. Data from sampling by maintenance entities are not consistently collected and are awaiting a modification of the Carmody operating permit database system that will allow input of sampling results.

Kevin Sherman suggests that the large variability seen in the Keys data stems from the samples being grab samples. Taking composite samples over a 24-hour period could reduce the variability.

John Collins comments that his company has installed two performance-based systems, for which they take four samples per year. He would be willing to share the numbers for a study. He confirms that the Carmody database is still addressing data entry issues.

Eberhard Roeder reports that for the second phase of the Manatee Springs study, DOH will work with the State Park Service to sort out contracting issues. Nutrient removal will be accomplished by controlling operating conditions at the ATU installed at Magnolia II and by a new system at Hickory.

Eberhard Roeder has no news about the proposed assessment of performance-based systems in Lee County. Patti Sanzone reports that the project has been included in the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)'s work plan for Fiscal Year 2005, contingent funding of the companion proposal by EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program.

b) Taylor County Monitoring. Eberhard Roeder reports that the expanded beach monitoring has shown high numbers of pathogen indicator organisms throughout the monitoring area. Total Nitrogen values are below 5 mg/L and consist largely of reduced forms. A draft invitation to negotiate to track the source of indicator organisms and assess the contribution of OSTDS to the problem is under review within DOH.

c) Remote Sensing. EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program has accepted the preproposal. Eberhard Roeder with DEP's Charles Kovach has written a full proposal, which is currently in the approval process within DOH.

4. Public Comment: nothing to report

5. The next meeting is tentatively planned for the first half of November. Participants agree that they prefer it to be held by teleconference call. Chair David Carter adjourned the meeting at 10:23

Recorded by Eberhard Roeder