

Approved Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
May 4, 2010

Attendees: Roger Thompson Rodney Pingree
Steve Revell Spencer Harris
Gerry Kittle Kim Greenwood
Craig Heindel Scott Stewart
Jeff Fehrs Claude Chevalier

Scheduled meetings:

June 8, 2010	1-4 PM	Appalachian Gap Room
July 13, 2010	1-4 PM	Mad Tom Room
September 14, 2010	1-4 PM	Room 100 Stanley Hall

Minutes:

Craig asked that the grease trap/grease interceptor notes for the March meeting be further clarified that grease traps are interior construction under the Vermont Plumbing Code and that grease interceptors are larger tanks, usually constructed outside of the building, and subject to the Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules.

Rodney commented on the same minutes that the 3rd sentence on page 3 should drop the word regulated for those users of 20,000 GPD to 57,600 GPD and just state that these users must register their withdrawal.

There was a brief discussion about the comments in the April minutes related to whether cream and/or coffee was a major problem for wastewater systems. Craig noted that while milk products are an issue it is likely that larger volumes of coffee are discharged because the stores are constantly replacing the coffee to keep it fresh for the customers. Some stores keep the coffee less than an hour.

Legislative Status

The exemption for many water treatment systems is still in the Capital Bill.

H.779 is still pending in the Senate Natural Resources Committee. Steve registered his concerns about trying to write a statute on short notice to deal with the over-shadowing issue rather than going through a rule making process where there would be time to think out the issues and implementation problems. Kim also objected to the current process because not all those affected were involved. Craig said that he had registered his objections with the Senate NR Committee and offered to attend a meeting but without an

invitation so far. Roger stated that even if H.779 does not pass TAC should take up this issue as it is certain to come up in the next legislative session.

Craig asked about the concept of putting the water treatment language in the capital bill even though there is support by TAC for making the proposed changes. Craig offered a motion that TAC go on record objecting to this approach in general. Those present voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Water System Design Flows

Scott gave a quick review of the progress made at the previous meetings and indicated that the committee should work on finishing the table for design flows. Spencer asked if a permit amendment would be required for a project that used table #2 for design flows and an individual single family residence then added a bedroom. Table #2 allows for a reduction in the design flow per single family residence when 5 or more residences are connected to the same wastewater disposal system and these design flows do not depend on the number of bedrooms in each residence. Roger said that this would depend on whether there are any issues related to septic tank size or pump station capacity or similar issues. If each house has a septic tank then it would need to be upgraded in some cases when bedrooms are added. Roger said that the permit should include a specific statement about what changes would require a permit amendment.

It was decided that the note at the end of table #2 can be removed.

Spencer asked about reducing the 70 GPD/person design flow to something less. Roger said this could be reviewed but any proposed change should include a review of organic loading. The literature has some information on long term loading rates that indicate a maximum of 0.75 gallons per square foot of leachfield should be used. Vermont allows up to 1.5 gallons per square foot per day and therefore a reduction in design flow might need to be offset with a reduction in application rates. The design flow also must remain as at the high end of the range of actual values, not the average flow from a large population when the design is based on a leachfield serving only one residence.

The group agreed to amend the design flow for convention, assembly, and event categories to be 4 gal/day for one mealtime service and 6 gal/day for 4 hour occupancy.

Steve asked about design flows in the caterer category when there are more than 2 employees. Scott suggested asking the regional office staff about the number of commercial caterer applications where there would be employees other than the owner when operated at the owner's single family residence. Al Burns at the health department should be consulted about the licensing program requirements for licensed cafeteria, private clubs, and cafeteria's at a business such as the one at National Life.

Items prioritized for discussion with high, low, and medium ranking

1. Soil identification vs. perc test **medium**
2. Curtain drain with presumption of effectiveness **high**
3. Revisions to desktop hydro chart **medium**
4. Minimum amount of sand under a mound **high**
5. Grandfathered design flow and conversion of use policy **high**
6. Updating of design flow chart **high**

Executive Committee

Steve Revell, Lance Phelps, and Roger Thompson
Alternates – Chris Thompson, Spencer Harris, Jeff Williams

Subcommittees

Hydrogeology - Craig Heindel, Dave Cotton and Steve Revell.

Training subcommittee - Roger Thompson, Dave Cotton, and Barbara Willis.

Drip Disposal – Roger Thompson, Dave Cotton, Steve Revell, Alan Huizenga

Water treatment systems – Gail Center, Jeff Williams, Rodney Pingree, Dave Cotton, Lance Phelps, and Roger Thompson.