Approved Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

October 20, 2020

**Participation by videoconference**

**Attendees:** Ernest Christianson Craig Heindel

Rodney Pingree Craig Jewett

Sheri Young Sille Larsen Cristin Ashmankas Carl Fuller

Rich Wilson

**Scheduled meetings:**

January 21, 2021 9AM – Noon by video conference

**Innovative/Alternative Systems:**

Cristin presented the following I/A Technologies for TAC review:

Hydro-Action for high-strength wastewater pilot-approval – Supported by members.

Algaewheel for low-strength wastewater pilot-approval – Members concerned by the increased frequency of monitoring, suggested monthly reporting of weekly averaged data, also discussed possible operator licensing as this system is similar to RBC’s but could potentially permanently ruin leachfields, recommendation was to require more frequent monitoring and compliance in line with the Indirect requirements- otherwise supported by members.

**Rule Revisions:** Ernie said that he and Bryan Redmond presented to the DMT on October 19, 2020. Hope to present to the Rule Writing ICAR before November 20th, 2020. All material up to date with exception of new image for Basal Area, being corrected by Rich Wilson. Last addition to Rule Revision involved the expansion of alternative toilets/composting toilets for remote campsites in the Vermont State Parks.

**Discussion of Off-grid/Tiny Homes:** Ernie requested a discussion of how the program should handle off-grid/tiny homes. Sheri and Craig H. both felt that they required no change from what they have been doing. Rich clarified that the owners are looking for reduction in water supply and wastewater flows, often wanting to go back to outhouses. TAC members recommended only allowing a reduction with they demonstrate that there are reduced amenities- put the burden on the applicant to show what is appropriate flows on a case-by-case basis and put conditions to hold them to that in the permit. All agreed that water that is pumped in must have a wastewater system to flow out. Craig H. suggested a checklist of guidance for what must be considered for justifying reduction. Ernie does not support less than 25 gpd/person. Ensure that the restriction conditions are mentioned right in the deed. Require an area to be designated that will support a fully compliant system as part of application. For more unique proposals, require IA experimental approvals with site-specific data to support and monitoring requirements. Suggested that the program check the regulations for the Adirondacks, Maine, and New Hampshire, so that we are not out ahead of our neighbors.

**Discussion of Maintaining Wastewater Systems:**

Sheri wanted to clarify what could count as a minor repair, what required a full permit, and what fell between the two as possible “maintenance to the system”. TAC members suggested and supported a simple form for maintenance that is signed and submitted by a designer.