

# RESEARCH REVIEW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## ONSITE SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SYSTEMS

### ADVISORY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

AUTHORITY: SECTION 381.0065(4)(o), FLORIDA STATUTES

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Approved Minutes of the Meeting held at the Southwood Office Complex, Tallahassee, FL  
March 19, 2015

#### In attendance:

#### Research Review and Advisory Committee (RRAC) Members and Alternates:

##### In person:

- Bill Melton (member, Consumer)

##### Via teleconference:

- Quentin (Bob) Beitel (member, Real Estate Profession)
- Carl Ludecke (vice-chairman, member, Home Building Industry)
- Daniel Meeroff (alternate, State University System)
- Christopher Pettit (member, Local Government)
- Clay Tappan (chairman, member, Professional Engineer)
- Robert Washam (alternate, Consumer)

##### Absent members and alternates:

- Ed Dion (alternate, Home Building Industry)
- Tony Macaluso (alternate, Real Estate Profession)
- John Schert (member, State University System)
- Matt Surrency (alternate, Local Government)

#### Other attendees:

##### In person:

- Douglas Buck (Florida Home Builders)

##### Via teleconference:

- Damann Anderson (Hazen and Sawyer)
- Melissa Brock (DOH, Brevard)
- Nanci Cornwell (Senator Hays Office)
- Kirstin Eller (DEP)
- Yesenia Escribano (DEP)
- Rick Hicks (DEP)
- Bob Himschoot (Septic Industry)
- Andrea Samson (Coalition of Property Rights)
- Gary Smith

#### Department of Health (DOH), Onsite Sewage Program Section:

##### In person:

- Gerald Briggs, Environmental Administrator, Water and Onsite Sewage Programs
- Elke Ursin, Environmental Health Program Consultant

1. **Introductions** – Six out of six groups with non-expired members were present, representing a quorum. Chairman Tappan called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. The agenda was presented, introductions were made, and some housekeeping issues were discussed.
2. **Review of previous meeting minutes** – The RRAC reviewed the minutes of the March 3, 2015 meeting.

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**Motion by Quentin Beitel and seconded by Carl Ludecke, for the RRAC to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2015 meeting as submitted. All were in favor, none opposed, and the motion passed unanimously.**

3. **Nitrogen Study Update** – Elke Ursin said that the purpose of this meeting was to continue the discussion from the March 3, 2015 meeting, specifically to give an update on what has happened since the meeting. Clay Tappan said that he worked with the Florida Association of Realtors to develop the letter. He was told that there was a deadline of March 12, 2015 and he went ahead and sent the letter. The meeting today was to go over the letter if there were any major discussion points, and he said he unintentionally forgot about the process outlined at the previous meeting. He apologized for the oversight, and wanted to get feedback from the RRAC as to what they thought of the letter. Quentin Beitel asked Elke Ursin if she had received any comments on the letter and she said that she had not. Carl Ludecke asked for Damann Anderson's opinion on the letter. Damann Anderson said that he had no problems with it and that it seemed to fit in with what the Home Builders and Realtors groups are doing. The main point of the letter was to get RRAC's opinion on record.

**Motion by Quentin Beitel and seconded by Bill Melton, that the RRAC approves the content of the letter Chairman Tappan sent on March 10, 2015. All were in favor, none opposed, and the motion passed unanimously.**

Quentin Beitel asked if anyone knew of anything has happened since the letter was sent. Quentin Beitel said that his contacts have told him there is heavy activity on this, but that there is also a lot of other activity relating to issues like the springs bill. Bill Melton said that there is no justification on the cost increase and Damann Anderson said that if the cash and authority are given, then a detailed scope and budget would be developed and would need to be approved by the Department and RRAC. Douglas Buck with the Home Builders Association said that they are working closely with the Realtors, and have had conversations with the appropriate committee chairs. The justification they use to explain any cost increase is that the cost estimate was from five years ago and there have been many starts and stops associated with the project. Douglas Buck did request that the Department work on getting the contract close to execution by July 1. Nanci Cornwell with Senator Hays's office asked what the \$500,000 would cover and Damann Anderson said that the bulk of it would be the work in the existing contract that did not get finished by the end of June, and adding in a final report on the project. Quentin Beitel said that an overview is outlined in the meeting minutes and Elke Ursin said she would email that to her. The public was allowed to comment throughout.

4. **Updates on Other Projects** – Elke Ursin said that there are many people requesting data for the Florida Water Management Inventory and she and her staff are busy collecting, analyzing, and sending out data.
5. **Other Business** – Quentin Beitel asked how best to keep track of follow-up on any Legislative actions on the nitrogen study. Clay Tappan said that now is the time for the RRAC members to get back to their representative organizations. There was a discussion about the Legislative

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appropriations timetable. Douglas Buck said that generally the final Governor actions happen at the end of May.

6. **Public Comment** – The public commented throughout the meeting.
7. **Closing Comments, Next Meeting, and Adjournment** – There was discussion that the next RRAC meeting will occur in late May or early June. RRAC and Department staff will work together to plan the appropriate time while being aware of Hazen and Sawyers contractual deadline at the end of June. The plan is to have Damann Anderson present on the project sometime in June 2015. Clay Tappan thanked RRAC for approving the letter.