

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

Approved Minutes of the Meeting held at the Southwood Office Complex, Tallahassee, FL
October 6, 2015

In attendance:

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

In person:

- Bill Melton (member, Consumer)
- Eberhard Roeder (member, Department of Health)

Via teleconference:

- Quentin (Bob) Beitel (member, Real Estate Profession)
- Roxanne Groover (FOWA)
- Carl Ludecke (vice-chairman, member, Home Building Industry)
- Daniel Meeroff (alternate, State University System)
- Christopher Pettit (member, Local Government)
- Mark Repasky (FRLA)
- John Schert (member, State University System)
- Clay Tappan (chairman, member, Professional Engineer)

Absent members and alternates:

- Ed Dion (alternate, Home Building Industry)
- Geoff Luebke (member, Restaurant Industry)
- Tony Macaluso (alternate, Real Estate Profession)
- Matt Surrency (alternate, Local Government)
- Robert Washam (alternate, Consumer)

Other attendees:

In person:

- Katie Britt (DEP)
- Douglas Buck (Florida Home Builders Association)

Via teleconference:

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| ▪ Damann Anderson (Hazen and Sawyer) | ▪ Christianne Ferraro (DEP) |
| ▪ Maurice Barker (DEP) | ▪ LaDarius Gammage (FAMU) |
| ▪ Andy Canion (SJRWMD) | ▪ Al Gray (DOH, Hernando) |
| ▪ Kevin Coyne (DEP) | ▪ Josefin Hirst (Hazen and Sawyer) |
| ▪ Dan Dooley (DOH, Marion) | ▪ Moira Homann (DEP) |
| ▪ Michael Dreyer (DOH, Hillsborough) | ▪ Eanix Poole |
| ▪ Kim Duffek (DOH, Orange) | ▪ Brian Prowant (EH) |
| ▪ Victor Faconti (DOH, St. Lucie) | ▪ Gary Smith |
| | ▪ Pam Tucker |

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

In person:

- Dale Holcomb, Environmental Administrator, Onsite Sewage Programs
- David Hammonds, Environmental Consultant, Onsite Sewage Programs
- Andrew Reich, Acting Bureau Chief, Bureau of Environmental Health
- Elke Ursin, Research Program Coordinator, Onsite Sewage Programs

Via teleconference:

- Bart Harris, Environmental Manager, Onsite Sewage Programs

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- 1. Introductions** – Nine out of nine 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. Old Business** – Elke Ursin said that there is a new section on the meeting minutes at the end that will show action items that come as a result of the meeting. She went over the action items from the last meeting.

At the previous RRAC meeting Doug Buck asked for staff to check and see if expired members can stay on the committee until replaced. Elke Ursin checked on this and the instruction was that it is acceptable if the statute specifically allows for it, but that this is not specifically stated for this committee in statute. The instruction was that it would be acceptable to reappoint an expired member if they would be amenable to being reappointed while the industry group finds a new member and alternate. This is what is currently being done with the Environmental Interest group.

Elke Ursin is working on a website to have all the tasks and associated deliverables up and available for anyone to view. The holdup in getting this done is making sure any homeowner specific information is redacted from these online documents to protect their privacy. She said that if anyone wants a deliverable that they can contact her.

Comments were submitted to Elke Ursin on the Draft Task B report and they were compiled and sent to Hazen and Sawyer.

Elke Ursin also posted the presentations for the July 28, 2015 meeting on the website.

- 3. Review of previous meeting minutes** – The RRAC reviewed the minutes of the July 28, 2015 meeting.

Motion by Quentin Beitel and seconded by Mark Repasky, for the RRAC to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2015 meeting with no changes. All were in favor, none opposed, and the motion passed unanimously.

- 4. Nitrogen Study Update** – Elke Ursin presented an update on the Florida Onsite Sewage Nitrogen Reduction Strategies Study. Elke Ursin went over what has happened since the July 2015 meeting. The current status is that the Legislature appropriated \$10,000 to conclude the study which has been spent on the final technology report and presentation on the report by Hazen and Sawyer. The contractual work is now complete. By December 31, 2015, the Department shall submit a final report to the Legislature containing:
 - a) Analysis of field monitoring of performance and cost of technologies at various sites
 - b) Analysis of soil and groundwater sampling at various sites to determine how nitrogen moves
 - c) Analysis of various models to show how nitrogen is affected by treatment in Florida-specific soils

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- d) Final reporting on all tasks with recommendations for science-based nitrogen reduction options for OSTDS

The project cost was anticipated to be \$5 million, and the final spending amount \$4,729,865, which includes all the appropriated funds plus some cash from the Bureau of Environmental Health. A brief discussion was made on the Task B Technology Final Report, and Elke Ursin will send the comments and responses from Hazen and Sawyer to the RRAC.

Next, Elke Ursin went over the implementation plan for the study. The goal is to make tools available to reduce nitrogen contributions from septic systems.

Elke Ursin quickly went over the final report outline and will send it out, with a deadline, to the RRAC for their input on what sections should be in the report.

Next, Elke Ursin went over the timeline for the final report and implementation. There is a Technical Review and Advisory Panel meeting tentatively scheduled for October 22, 2015 in the Orlando area. This meeting will go over one of the implementation plan steps, which is to allow a lined drainfield to provide some nitrogen reduction. Elke Ursin mentioned that both Hazen and Sawyer and the Department will present at the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association / State Onsite Regulators Association conference in November. The public were allowed to comment on the nitrogen study throughout this discussion.

5. **Updates on Other Projects** – Elke Ursin gave an update on the Florida Water Management Inventory. The project is to create a statewide map showing the drinking water source and wastewater treatment method for all built properties. This tool ties in with the nitrogen issue, and will provide refined estimates for loading of nitrogen from OSTDS in sensitive watersheds. She said that there was a project funding vacation, but that she is actively working with DEP to secure EPA nonpoint source pollution grant funding. The project has been approved by EPA and DEP and an agreement has been drafted and is currently being reviewed by the Department's legal office. This funding would allow for full mapping of the state by the end of September 2016. The Grant funding amount is \$390,800 and the Department's match commitment is \$260,100. The matching funds have already been spent using research program dollars. Fifteen counties have been completed. RRAC approved this project as their #1 research priority after the first version of the inventory was completed, and TRAP approved it as well. Elke Ursin asked for confirmation from RRAC that this funding plan is acceptable and that this project is still a priority.

Motion by Quentin Beitel and seconded by Eberhard Roeder, that the RRAC supports the Florida Water Management Inventory project. All were in favor, none opposed, and the motion passed unanimously.

6. **New Business** – Elke Ursin said that there is a need to have an election for a new chair and vice-chair for the RRAC. She asked that nominations be sent to her.
7. **Public Comment** – The public commented throughout the meeting.

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8. **Closing Comments, Next Meeting, and Adjournment** – The next meeting will be in November 2015 and the focus will be to go over the draft final report for the nitrogen study as well as to elect a chair and vice-chair. Elke Ursin is looking into having the meeting in the Orlando area.

Motion by Eberhard Roeder and seconded by Bill Melton, for the RRAC to adjourn at 3:25 p.m. All were in favor, none opposed, and the motion passed unanimously.

Summary of action items from meeting:

- Elke Ursin will update the Department Nitrogen Study website to include links to all deliverables for the project.
- Elke Ursin will send the comments and responses from Task B Technology Final Report from Hazen and Sawyer to the RRAC.
- Elke Ursin will send the final report outline with a deadline to the RRAC for their input on what sections should be in the report.