

SMALL COMMUNITIES ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE GROUP

June 2, 2008

MINUTES

Attendees: Steve Grossman, Ken Heigel and Gina Sopp, OWDA; Lori Libby, CPMRA – Miami University; Karen Mancl, OSU; Stacy Barna, Ohio EPA, Jim Bonk, Ohio EPA; Brian Hall, Ohio EPA; Dave Douglas, USDA – Rural Development; John Rauch, RCAP; Matthew Lindsay, Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission; Tom Scott, Monroe County Economic Development; Greg Otey, URS/Ohio Water Environment Association; Linda Bailiff, OPWC; and Peter Ross, Fifth Third Securities.

TRAINING COMMITTEE: Karen Mancl and Lori Libby (Curriculum); John Rauch (RCAP Training)

Curriculum

Pending approval from the Board of Trustees, Karen will be on sabbatical beginning October 2008 through May 2009. The topic of her sabbatical is “The Culture of Water Pollution Control in Rural China”. She will be in China in August and in Columbus during the fall and winter quarters; returning to China in April 2009.

Karen is the Director of the Environmental Science Graduate Program at OSU which includes a Masters and PhD program of approximately 60-70 students. As director, she made a brochure which is a cookbook entitled “Soup Tuesday”. Every other page describes the program and the remaining pages are soup recipes. Copies were distributed.

Lori noted that she has been working with the Outreach Committee recently and did not have a report under this section.

Wastewater:

Karen reported that OSU held a Design School for “Onsite Wastewater Treatment” in April. To date, 155 people have completed this school, learning how to design septic and mound systems. A list of all participants is available at <http://setll.osu.edu/people/participant> and is organized by profession.

OSU is now offering Advanced Design Schools beginning this summer. Three one-day courses will be offered including courses on “Sand Bioreactors”, “Soils – Identifying Water Tables”, and “Site Mapping for Design Plans” (see attached brochure for details). The only people eligible for this school are those mentioned on the list for the “Onsite

Wastewater Treatment Design School". By next year, OSU hopes to offer three additional new schools covering other subjects on different onsite sewage technologies.

Karen commented that she has had some new interest in community workshops for wastewater treatment from Hamilton and Williams County. No workshops have been scheduled as yet.

New Technology:

Karen reported that she just published an article in the May issue of the *Ohio Country Journal* on OSU's work with treatment of sanitary sewer overflows. OSU currently has a project sponsored by the City of Columbus which is a laboratory study investigating the feasibility of treating sanitary sewer overflows where they occur. Through the study, they have found that layered sand filters continue to be the most effective in terms of meeting affluent criteria. They can meet the ammonia standard for a 2-hour overflow but once it goes beyond that, then the levels begin to rise. This project will be completed by July 1, 2008 including a report to the City of Columbus; however, she does not know what the status of the project will be after that. OSU hopes that the City will choose to fund Phase II which is a pilot plant to treat sanitary sewer overflows.

Another project that OSU is doing is treatment of food processing wastewater from a turkey slaughter house. A pilot plant has been constructed at the site just over a year ago based on the laboratory work done at OSU. The study is nearly complete of the pilot plant and once it is complete, they will be ready to go forward with the design of a full-sized plant. Whitewater Processing is the sponsor of this research.

OSU is developing a new disinfection system for small/onsite wastewater treatment plants. The patent has been filed and they are continuing with their development work. A supplemental patent will be filed in September for the additional work. OWDA is the sponsor of this research.

RCAP Training

John reported that between 500-600 people have attended Board Training. As a result, RCAP has received multiple inquiries for rate studies which is a dramatic change from the past.

Regarding Short Courses, the courses are written, a PowerPoint presentation has been prepared and a Toolkit has been put together including all the forms related to project development. RCAP plans to deliver these courses on-site to communities between July 1 and September, 2008. Deb Martin is currently reviewing the courses for final editing.

RCAP is working with CUPS, which is Asset Management software from US EPA. According to John, CUPS still has some issues, however RCAP believes that this program is still workable.

RCAP offered some night training sessions. Two night sessions have been offered so far and one was canceled due to lack of interest. RCAP will continue to make these sessions available.

RCAP will be meeting in July to plan the 2008-2009 training schedule with plans to offer 30 sessions. They are also planning to offer a basic utility course and 3 evening sessions.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Jim Bonk

Jim reported that the committee had two very successful sessions that the committee co-sponsored with Senator Voinovich's office. The first session was held in Athens and the following communities attended: Sonora from Muskingum County, Hillsboro from Highland County, Ross County brought in their Union Heights project, Roseville from Perry/Muskingum County, Richmond Dale Sewer District, and Coolville from Athens County. Jim gave the following report from this meeting:

Ross County is looking at possibly two projects. The first is a residential area where they want to eliminate the current package plant. They also have an airport development project. Current estimate for the entire project is \$3.7 million; for the residential area only, the project is just over \$2 million. They have not started design yet and the advice from the group was to tackle the residential project only because none of the agencies present were equipped to finance the development at the airport.

The Village of Coolville may be headed down the same path as Amesville. They are a small unsewered poor Village and they are considering building some type of decentralized treatment system to lower capital costs. They are currently in a very preliminary stage of their project. The project is estimated at \$4 million with construction projected to begin in 2010 with 250 connections.

The Village of Roseville has a wastewater project for \$1.3 million which includes five pump stations. Design is complete and they are in the process of securing a PTI from OEPA.

The City of Hillsboro has a project for a 5 million gallon-per-day wastewater plant upgrade to eliminate combined sewer overflows. The cost of the project is \$19.4 million and OEPA-DEFA has committed \$18.9 million. The City is looking for grant money to lower their debt burden.

The Village of Sonora has a wastewater project. This unsewered community would like to receive Block Grant and USDA funding to tie into a treatment plant. On the wastewater side, they are looking at 4,200 connections. They would like to begin construction in 2009 and they have prepared CDBG and USDA applications.

Richmond Dale Sewer District has a wastewater treatment plant project estimated at \$1,900,600. The project will provide a sanitary sewer and a 30,000 GPD wastewater treatment plant to serve 166 residents. The District is applying for a \$150,000 design

loan from OWDA to begin design. They already have a NPDES permit to discharge for the WWTP. Planning is complete and design is anticipated to be complete by the end of 2008. Construction is anticipated for the fall of 2010.

Greg asked about Senator Voinovich's involvement with the sessions. John gave a summary about RCAP's involvement with his office beginning last year, and how it has evolved into these sessions. He also explained that Brandon Kern from the Senator's office has been attending SCEIG's Outreach Committee meetings. Brandon stated that the Senator wants to promote the great need for water and sewer infrastructure.

The group noted that there is a growing congressional interest in wanting to be involved with these meetings.

Jim reported that for the Findlay session, the Finance Committee had an even larger crowd than Athens. He gave the following report for Findlay:

The Village of Tiro from Crawford County came in with a drinking water project for a new water system. The project is estimated at \$2 million and the Village has \$30,000 of their own funds to commit. They would like to begin construction in July 2009.

The Village of Fort Loramie in Shelby County has a drinking water project estimated at \$2.3 million. The project would replace the existing treatment plant with a new facility at a different location and development of a new well field near the new plant site. The Village has approximately \$300,000 from their general and water funds and they are in preliminary design and well site development. They hope to begin construction in the summer of 2010.

The Fulton County Commissioners has a project that will pick up 1,350 people that are currently being served by shallow and sandpoint wells, ponds and storage tanks. Their plans are to regionalize these sites into their District which will provide an excellent solution. The County Commissioners claim that this is a very dire situation. The project cost is approximately \$6 million which includes an additional 300 connections. They are already working with OEPA on the drinking water side and have also qualified as disadvantaged because they will be tying into the Villages of Metamora and Lyons, both of which are under enforcement. Planning is complete and design is beginning soon. They hope to start construction in March 2009 if they can come up with the funding.

The Village of Paulding in Paulding County has a drinking water project with an estimated cost of \$8.5 million. They currently have a planning loan from OWDA for \$1 million. Design is in progress and they hope to bid the project in August or September 2008. The Village has 1,466 connections with proposed rates included in the project of \$38/month.

The Village of Pioneer in Williams County has a project for a 300,000 gallon water tower, a new 12 inch loop water main and hydrants, and new curbs and stormwater with estimated project costs between \$1-4 million. The project does not include any meters

and everyone at the meeting encouraged the Village Administrator to add them to the project. The Village claims to have 50% of the project cost in local funds. This project will probably be returning to the Finance Committee once details and proposed funding has been determined.

John mentioned that Roberta has visited this Village Administrator and was not able to clarify the project any further. Roberta and Tom plan to visit the Villages' council.

Karen commented that she would send some Water Curriculum brochures to the County extension agent, Florian Chirra, which may help them to have a starting point in working with OEPA.

John added that Roberta and Tom can also follow up with the County agent.

The Village of Malinta in Henry County is an unsewered community with bad septic problems. They are under Findings and Orders to install a system. Their estimated project cost is \$4 million with 150 connections. Some funding has been committed by USDA-RD and they have a \$340,000 OWDA loan. Plans are to be submitted in May 2008 with no estimated construction date noted at this time.

Dave commented that the money USDA put into the project was put in three years ago. They have delayed and not moved ahead; therefore the project is more expensive now. Dave believes the reason the Village came to the meeting is because USDA said they would withdraw their funds if they did not attend.

The Village of Kettlersville in Shelby County has a wastewater project in the amount of \$1.5- 2.2 million including 87 connections. The Village is under Findings and Orders due to their failing on-lot systems. The initial plan came out of County Block Grant formula monies and the project plan was sent to OEPA. The County Sewer District is currently reviewing the plan. The Village has approached the County and the Sewer District, and the County has agreed to sponsor the project proceeding with the construction project as the owner/operator of the system. The estimated costs to the users from the project plan is approximately \$57-\$58/month. With the higher cost estimates, the project is pushing \$70-\$73/month. They are hoping to obtain Public Works funds, but felt they were not going to be able to qualify. The Village also estimated receiving \$300,000 from the District.

Jim noted that the next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for June 13 at OWDA. Liberty Center has a water project and is currently the only project that will be presented. Profiles will be sent out this week.

Steve wondered if this was the community that attended the Athens session.

John noted that this would be one of Bob's communities and stated he would check with him.

Jim checked with Julie Ward and Fort Jennings and Newport were eliminated from the Findlay meeting because they are not ready to come in yet.

Steve noted that the committee has met with more communities this year than in the past two years.

OUTREACH EFFORTS: Stacy Barna

Stacy reported that the outreach trainings in Athens and Findlay both had great participation!

Dave noted that 75 attended in Athens and 45-50 in Findlay.

Steve added that more communities were represented in Findlay.

Stacy noted that overall, the sessions went well and the committee is looking at doing two more sessions; one in September for southwest Ohio and one in October for northeast Ohio (dates to be determined). She is hoping to do the schedule via-telephone, especially since the sessions are well prepared at this point. She asked the committee to meet with her immediately following this meeting to look at possible dates.

Stacy asked for feedback regarding both sessions.

Dave responded that coupling the Outreach meeting with the Finance Committee meeting really impressed one attender that he spoke with. Many of these people have not seen how the Finance Committee operates. He stated that people he spoke with were impressed to see that someone could come in and generally receive what they could expect from each of the funding agencies. This was a big hit!

Steve noted that at each session there was a lunch break. At the Athens session, two communities attended in the morning and in Findlay there were three. Very few people left prior to lunch. In Findlay, there were three completely different settings; therefore it was not the same show repeated. At the afternoon session, almost everyone left except the presenters. His other observation is that because there were so many communities in Findlay, the committee made a conscious decision to have Deb present rather than the whole committee, which was the most efficient.

Stacy asked Lori to check with Deb to see if any other updates need to be made to the presentation.

Lori asked about the date in July for the Voinvoich staffs' session.

Stacy responded that it is either July 15 or 16. She is still waiting to hear confirmation from Brandon Kern and will check with him to confirm. The location will be in Columbus.

Karen noted that Lori mentioned that it may be a good time to expose the staff to some of the training we offer.

Stacy responded that the time allotted is 1 ½ - 2 hours, including the presentation, Q & A and then afterwards, the committee will be available for further interaction. The Army Corps will be there in the morning with our committee scheduled in the afternoon. This will be similar to what we did last fall.

Dave noted that the committee has done this for other elected officials in the past. Approximately 2 ½- 3 years ago, we did a session for Congressman Strickland and Senator Brown's staff.

Steve recalled the Strickland session and noted that one of the attenders, Christi Mash, is now one of the regional economic developers. He met her last week which was a good reconnection.

Stacy noted that Brandon Kern indicated that approximately 10 people will be in attendance at the July session, which will give everyone opportunity to present their particular section. She asked Lori to coordinate with Deb regarding this session as well as the September and October sessions.

John noted that there has been a request from the counties on the east side of the State to do something around Cambridge next year. They have trouble coming to Columbus to attend. Stacy noted this.

Lori noted that it seems we have a model that includes sessions in the four corners of Ohio, and two more sessions in Columbus. Do we want to continue this or do we need to scrutinize this further?

Jim stated that this is a good question. Do we want to have an August Finance Committee meeting if we are going to have a session in September?

Steve responded that the concern is if we get communities that are located in the southeast or northwest, it is difficult to send them across the State. What was done last time, since we did not have an April meeting, the 1-2 communities that would have attended were sent to the session in May in the southeast.

Consensus is to wait and see what the interest is before scheduling.

Stacy responded that if we do 6 meetings a year and criss-cross locations around the State, within 4 months, communities would have opportunities to attend in central Ohio or near their immediate area.

Steve distributed a letter from Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs regarding a Southern Ohio Community Workshop on June 19. It is funded by US Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration. This

workshop focuses on economic development, however in referring to the second page of the letter, there is a large number of presenters. Steve contacted them and it turns out that the contact person is from the University of Michigan. He does not have a good sense of how they are going to handle all of these agencies. His thought is to have one person from SCEIG present on behalf of the group.

Dave responded that USDA-RD is attending and they were told to present within 5-7 minutes. Randy Hunt is doing the presentation for them and will cover all their programs within 5 minutes.

Steve asked John if there was anyone from RCAP that could take SCEIGs' presentation and cover it in 5-7 minutes. John stated he would check into this.

DECENTRALIZED WASTEWATER WORK GROUP: Dave Douglas

Dave reported that the last Decentralized Committee meeting was held on April 15, 2008 at OWDA. In attendance were the following: Roberta Acosta, RCAP; Ken Heigel, OWDA; Rebecca Fugitt, ODH; Adam Vorhis, EHM & T; Bruce Goff, SE District OEPA; Paul Novak, Central Office OEPA; Dan Kopec, Central Office OEPA; Eric Zwierschke, USDA; and Dave Douglas, USDA.

Dave noted that for some time, the group has been discussing a name change. Officially it is still Decentralized Wastewater Work Group; however they have been calling the group "Decentralized Committee". For now, there is no official change.

The main topic discussed at the April meeting was how best to get the information out about decentralized systems. The group feels that the best way to do this is to make sure that the engineering community is aware of what decentralized is and what it can be; also what processes they have to go through in working with OEPA and others to get approval for the system.

The group decided to have a decentralized meeting specifically for the engineering community to be held September 17, 2008, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the offices of the Ohio Department of Agriculture in Reynoldsburg. A draft agenda has been composed and the group is working to obtain continuing education credit for engineers who attend. The trainers will be Adam Voris, Dan Kopec/Paul Novak, Rebecca Fugitt, Matt McCoppin/Eric Zwierschke, Kurtis Strickland, and Roberta Acosta.

The next DWWG meeting is July 10, 2008 at OWDA.

Greg raised some questions and issues regarding decentralized systems. The group responded by giving Greg details and supporting data to answer his questions/concerns.

APPALACHIAN ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY
WORKGROUP: Steve Grossman

Steve noted that the next meeting is tomorrow. Brandon Kern from Senator Voinovich's office will be in attendance. Ken has prepared the subjective list for priority communities. We will also be looking at new communities and others that may need to be placed on the priority list. Also at the meeting tomorrow, there will be some discussion regarding the Decentralized Group.

SMALL COMMUNITY TRACKING SYSTEM: Ken Heigel

Steve commented that several people have been very active on the database.

Ken reported that RCAP is diligent in updating projects and information from OEPA is also being updated regarding permits, which is working well. He is starting to put some projects on the database outside of Appalachia, beginning with projects that are outside those counties that have planning loans with OWDA who are planning new systems. RCAP is assisting OWDA with tracking these projects by using the database. Ken believes that the database will ultimately be successful for the entire State with capabilities to sort by OEPA District offices and other options as the database continues to evolve. The database will be used at the meeting tomorrow, going project-by-project as a tool to go through the priority project list and new projects.

Steve reminded everyone that it is important to get other projects inputted. He received a letter from Brookside, which he has shared with John, in which the mayor was unable to attend the meeting in Athens. They had received some Public Works funding and wanted SCEIG to provide the funding to repay their loan from Public Works. Steve explained that this was not possible; however they also brought up some other problems that they were experiencing. Steve referred them to John and noted that this is just an example of a project that needs further follow-up.

He also shared about a newspaper article he read recently regarding Pomeroy, which he will detail at the meeting tomorrow. Briefly, they are receiving a planning loan from a bank but Steve does not believe this is a project the group is aware of. If you are in the field or have staff in the field, please input information on the database so that we can be proactive instead of reactive, at least with Appalachia, and eventually with the rest of the State.

COORDINATING COMMITTEE: Ken Heigel and Stacy Barna

Ken noted that the committee (Jim, Stacy, Dave and Ken) met 6 weeks ago with the last couple of meetings focusing specifically on projects. Currently there are no pressing issues and the next meeting is scheduled for July 10 at 9:30.

Stacy commented that the committee meets at least every three months. They have been looking at environmental reviews, having everyone come together to discuss who is working on them to avoid duplication of efforts.

The committee would like to have some further discussion on change orders and that process. Stacy mentioned a project that OEPA has in common with USDA. The way the change orders are being submitted for approval with each agency, which each has slightly different rules, she and Dave would like to work on a common form/sign-off for that process to make sure everyone is clear on what is required and who is responsible. So far, they have not been able to work on this project.

Stacy noted that the committee is always looking for anything else that can be coordinated on and offered that they are open to suggestions.

REVIEW OF 2007 OBJECTIVES/DISCUSSION OF 2008 OBJECTIVES: Steve Grossman

Steve distributed copies of the 2007/2008 objectives and noted that he is still looking for input from some of the group. He stated that it would be nice to have a final document for 2007 on the website for people who review these so they can see what the group has accomplished. He will wait another month for the rest of the group to comment and then whatever has been received by July 4 will be posted to the website. Realizing that much has been accomplished this year, he wanted to encourage further input so that these accomplishments can be documented.

He asked Gina to e-mail copies of both sets to the group.

NEW BUSINESS:

Steve reported that the Annual State Revolving Fund Conference will be held October 19-21 in Providence, Rhode Island. Ken, Dave, Stacy and John have attended this conference previously. In working with Jeff Hughes and the Small Communities Water Infrastructure Exchange Group (SCWIE), two sessions are being planned. One session will focus on small community affordability and the second will cover provision of technical assistance for small communities, including construction and maintenance expenses. There will be a panel, including someone from Rural Water, someone from Maine and Steve would like to have someone from RCAP as well.

John stated that he spoke with RCAP this morning and he asked if it would be acceptable to have two people from RCAP to share time on the panel. Steve will coordinate with John on this.

Steve added that they would like to have someone from EPA that represents a third State on the panel to talk about what the SRF people are doing in their particular state.

Stacy noted that she may have something from the Sustaining Infrastructure call she had last week. Twenty five different states were on the call and they were talking about who is using RCAP. She has notes from some of the states who strongly use RCAP and offered to share that information with Steve for possible contacts.

Steve commented that ideally they are looking for an EPA or SRF contact, hoping to achieve a nice contrast on a panel; even having someone from Rural Water on the panel who does not utilize RCAP any longer.

NEXT MEETING DATE: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2008, 1:30 P.M.

Advanced Design School Schedule

Session 2.1

Sand Bioreactors

- Determining bioreactor dimensions and loading
- Material specifications and construction practices

Monday June 23

9:30 – 4:30

Molly Caren Ag. Center

Session 2.2

Water Tables

- Soil hydrology and redoximorphic features
- Identifying and describing saturated conditions in soils

Bring your Munsell Color Book

Monday July 14

9:30-4:30

Molly Caren Ag. Center

Session 2.3

Design Plans

- Creating topographic maps
- Software for plan development
- Including soil information in design plans

Monday July 28

9:30 – 4:30

Molly Caren Ag. Center

Overflow Sessions

If demand is high

Monday June 30,

Monday July 21, or

Monday August 4

9:30 am – 4:30 pm

Molly Caren Ag. Center

Registration Form

Advanced Design Schools

Holly Bartholomew

First Class Conferences

PO Box 1367

Mt. Pleasant, SC 29465

Phone 877-463-8331

FAX 843-471-2369

Registration Deadline June 15, 2008

Name _____

Address _____

County _____

Phone (____) _____

Email (for confirmation) _____

**Make check payable to:
First Class Conferences**

2.1 Sand Bioreactors (\$200) _____

2.2 Water Tables (\$200) _____

2.3 Design Plans (\$200) _____

Total (for 1 or more sessions) _____

Who Should Attend

Graduates of the SETLL Onsite Wastewater Treatment Design School are eligible.

Registration

The registration fee of \$200 per day includes workbooks and all materials for the workshop, lunches & snacks.

In cooperation with:

Ohio Department of Health
Ohio Land Improvement Contractors Association
Farm Science Review
Madison County Health Department
Ohio Onsite Wastewater Association
Ohio State University Research Foundation

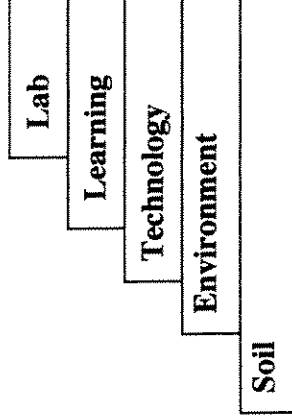
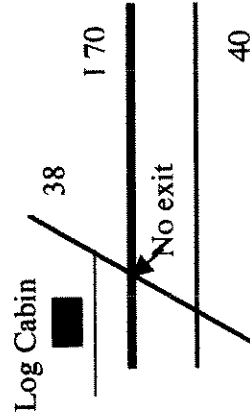
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Molly Caren Agricultural Center is Home of the Farm Science Review Intersection of Highways 40 and 38, just west of Lafayette near London, Ohio

The log cabin is just off Highway 38. Take the first turn to the west off 38 just north of Interstate 70. The parking lot is on the north side of the road. Note: Highway 38 does not have an exit off I 70. Exit onto Highways 42 to the east or 56 to the west and drive south to Highway 40.

For a map, check the web site for the Soil Environment Technology Learning Lab (setll.osu.edu).



- Advanced -

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Design Schools

Dr. Karen MancI, Dr. Mike Rowan
and Dr. Brian Slater

- 2.1 Sand Bioreactors for Onsite Wastewater Treatment
- 2.2 Identifying Water Tables and Saturated Soils
- 2.3 Developing Site Maps for Design Plans

Molly Caren Agricultural Center,
London, Ohio

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