

LOWER MERAMEC SOURCE WATER DEMONSTRATION PROJECT - ACTION PLAN - ON-SITE WASTEWATER SYSTEMS SUBCOMMITTEE

Initial Meeting of Subcommittee - October 8, 2009 10 a.m. at Wildwood City Hall

Members Present [assisted by Katherine Dockery – OSC]:

Terri Gaston – City of Wildwood
Scott Harding – SCI Engineering
Bruce Litzsinger – MSD
Jeff Nieroda - MAWC
Judy Brown – Friends of LaBarque Creek
Matt Rousseau – MR Soil Consulting
Bob Coffing - LaBarque Creek Stream Team Assoc.

Members Absent:

Martin Toma – Jefferson County
Rich Barr – R. Barr Consulting
Rich Wilson – Franklin County

Strategy findings since meeting discussion:

Engineer certification does not apply to repair of existing septic systems for St. Louis County and for conventional systems for FC. All alternative systems require engineer designs in both SLC and FC

The Jefferson County On-site Treatment Ordinance does require the installer to service new units for two years and it is enforcing this provision. It also contains a provision for the homeowner to secure an operating permit that is renewed every two years upon provision of evidence that the system has been properly maintained. This is not being enforced for two reasons. First, the software the county bought before the current Department of County Services and Code Enforcement Director arrived was flawed, so a reliable data base could not be established. Second, administering such a system requires manpower and resources. These would have to be paid through a permit fee for on-site systems. That fee has not been approved by the elected officials. Jefferson County now has the software and will seek the funding approval with the code revisions anticipated next year. Second, Jefferson County is currently moving to require soil scientists to be licensed within the county. While they are licensed by the state, whenever a system fails, there is a problem identifying who is at fault. In a couple of cases the soil scientist provided bad data, but there was no recourse against them. The code that is under consideration is to grant a county license to any individual who has a state license and provides a bond and insurance to the county so it has some place to turn for correcting bad work.

November 9, 2009 Meeting of Subcommittee - 11 a.m. at Wildwood City Hall, 183 Plaza Drive, 63040

Members Present [assisted by Brittany Barton – OSC]:

Terri Gaston – City of Wildwood
Bill Placht – Franklin County
Bruce Litzsinger – MSD
Jeff Nieroda – MAWC
Rich Barr – R. Barr Consulting

Members Absent:

Martin Toma – Jefferson County
Scott Harding – SCI Engineering
Judy Brown – Friends of LaBarque Creek
Matt Rousseau – MR Soil Consulting

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Bob Coffing - LaBarque Creek Stream Team Assoc.

Meeting Discussion:

Discussion regarding the Action Plan strategies and requirements centered on providing a model ordinance, routine inspections and maintenance, outreach and education. St. Louis County conducts one inspection with a 1 year guarantee, no requirements for further inspections. Other topics of discussion included the number of existing septic systems in each county, code changes to meet current health standards, and how to disperse information regarding maintenance, instituting a lateral program, and/or a homeowner's association assessment to those subdivisions that have a certain percentage of failing systems.

December 14, 2009 Meeting of Subcommittee - 9 a.m. at Franklin County Gov't Center, 400 E. Locust, Union, MO 63084

Members Present [assisted by Brittany Barton – OSC]:

Terri Gaston – City of Wildwood
Bill Placht – Franklin County
Bruce Litzsinger – MSD
Jeff Nieroda – MAWC
Rich Barr – R. Barr Consulting
Matt Rousseau – MR Soil Consulting
Bob Coffing - LaBarque Creek Stream Team Assoc.
Dawn Sharp – MO Assc. Local Public Health Agencies

Members Absent:

Martin Toma – Jefferson County
Scott Harding – SCI Engineering
Judy Brown – Friends of LaBarque Creek

Meeting Discussion:

Discussion focused on further refinement of the Action Plan, specific to the strategies and requirements, critical functions of each [i.e. sub-categories, terminology], prioritization, and reassessing timeframe to reach said goals. A motion was made by Mr. Barr, seconded by Mrs. Gaston, to approve the Action Plan with today's modifications by the subcommittee and submit its recommendation to TPL to follow through with implementation as outlined. **Next meeting of the Septic System**

Subcommittee: TBD

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Overall Priority Ranking ²	Implementation Strategy	Requirements (e.g. new funding, council approval, inter-agency MOU, etc.)	Time Frame ¹	Level Of Effort Req'd ²	Impact on Water Protection ²	Primary Organization
I	Funding program for failing systems	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify Counties/Municipalities where programs exist [currently, state funding sources are available, up to \$5,000, only to qualifying property owners (i.e. low income); consider a low-interest loan program (qualification not a requirement) which could be possible with expansion of State Revolving Fund]. 2. Affordability of new systems [Jefferson Co. requires an engineer to redesign failing systems]. 3. Availability of lateral campaign. 4. Subject to MDNR regulations, invoke a County requirement to install Centralized Wastewater Treatment Facilities [CWTF] if more than a certain percentage of systems are failing [% TBD; a special assessment by HOA may be necessary for installation costs]. 5. HOA initiative for a subdivision-wide inspection/maintenance program to reduce individual property owners' costs. 	Short	High	High	MDNR EWGCOG HOA
II	Verify County Ordinances pertaining to current code for septic systems; amend if necessary to meet: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Minimum MoDOH standard. B. Identify BMPs 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Requirements for septic system inspections and a maintenance program, based upon individual system requirements: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Class 1 [aeration] – 1 year increment b. Conventional [septic] – 3 year increment 2. Renewable operating permit [minimum every 1-3 years, system dependent] 3. Potential licensure for on-site wastewater professionals: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Installer b. Inspector c. Soil evaluators d. Percolation testers e. Maintenance personnel [including waste haulers] 4. Tailor ordinance amendments to individual Counties, due to type of system based upon topography/morphology/parcel size, beyond MoDOH and include BMPs. 	Short	Medium	High	Jefferson, Franklin, St. Louis Counties
III	Develop training and	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On-site wastewater professionals for sales need training through MDOH [12 	Medium	Medium	Low	Jefferson,

¹ Select from Categories: Short (1 –3 years), Medium (4 – 6 years), or Long (7 – 10 years)

² Select from Categories: Low, Medium or High

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	licensing for maintenance [County personnel]	<p>hours of CEU (Continuing Education Unit credits) every three years required for renewing licenses].</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. On-site wastewater professionals are few in some counties; need more properly trained on-site wastewater professionals. 3. Ensure proper installation of systems [MDOH/CEUs have same licensure requirements for all on-site wastewater professionals, including county regulators. 				Franklin, St. Louis Counties; MDOH
IV	<p>Septic system Inspection and Maintenance Agreement [by third party professionals]:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Property owner B. Licensed On-site Wastewater Professional C. County 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a checklist pertaining to inspection items, containing critical points on home-owner's system. 2. Require on-site wastewater system inspection by installer/inspector and property owner with regular maintenance check-ups [1-3 year renewal, system dependent], with inspection slip/maintenance agreement to be signed by both parties and submitted to the County. 3. Maintenance Agreement options: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Non-binding, statement of intent beyond the initial 2-year term w/system demonstration model. b. Formalized declaration for on-going maintenance every 2 years. 	Medium	High	High	Jefferson, Franklin, St. Louis Counties; Plumbing Code Commissions; MDOH; property owners
V	Education & Outreach	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mass mailing of brochure to property owners educating them on the importance of wastewater system maintenance to ensure protection of drinking water sources, including when and how often to inspect their systems and general maintenance procedures to reduce system failures. 2. Mobile Demonstration Model 3. Require a <u>Use & Maintenance Demonstration Model</u> at the time of installation, permit issuance, renewal, and/or re-occupancy. 4. Provide literature to HOAs regarding conversion to a CTF and the potential cost savings if routine inspections are done under a subdivision contract in lieu of individual property owners. 	Medium	Medium	Medium	Education & Outreach Subcommittee