

GEM Committee Minutes – February 1, 2007

1. Attendance: Jamie Lythgoe, Lance Wood, Ed Macauley, David Snyder, Shanna Francis, Cindy Beger, Jim Ormsbee, Curtis Christensen, Brian Cowan, Sharon Holmstrom, Ron Gleason, Kim Wheatley, Joan Blanchard, Chris Stephenson, Steve Roberts, John Klisch, Lowell Peterson, Mike Larsen, Louis Cooper, Steve Clarke. Sharon Vause and Pam Mitchell were excused. Brandon Fuller was visiting.
2. Excerpts of minutes of the January meeting were read. The minutes were approved.
3. Steve Clarke briefly reviewed the Webster Township, Michigan and Coweta County, Georgia approaches to sewer planning provided by Louis Cooper last meeting. Both of these areas have issues similar to the Ogden Valley. Webster Township blocked use of the newer MBR technology for fear of the impact while Coweta County did the planning necessary to embrace the new technology.
4. Steve Clarke thanked Curtis Christensen for providing the 2003 Ogden Valley Wastewater Management Study (Hansen, Allen & Luce) as background. Curtis indicated he could provide a copy of the figures and appendices. Costs quoted in the study are known to be considerably lower than would be used today. Still, the Committee felt the research was adequate to provide a technical base for the work. Shanna Francis (and Ed Macauley) indicated the Committee would be well served to study the most recent TMDL study which indicates that as of 2002 Pineview Reservoir was receiving more nitrates than it could handle, leading to eutrophication in the future. Shanna will provide a copy for reproduction and distribution.
5. Art Roscoe presented a draft Goal for the study:
 - a. *Provide a plan for a sewer system or systems for the Ogden Valley which is consistent with the Ogden Valley General Plan. The plan should recognize the linkage between the sewer system and land use planning. The plan should include technical, environmental, management and cost components.* After a short discussion on the feasibility of linkage with land use planning the committee agreed the goal statement would be adequate.
6. Steve Clarke invited members of the Committee who wish to attend to join in meeting with the Commissioners on Monday 2/5. At 9:30 am we meet with Commissioner Deardon, at 10 with Commissioner Zogmaister, and at 11 with Chair Bischoff. Lowell Peterson was specifically invited to attend. A short presentation will be developed for use in those meetings by Steve Clarke, Art Roscoe, and Ron Gleason along with any others who wish to participate.

7. Ron Gleason discussed a financial model he is developing of an MBR system for use in the study, and potentially by developers and the County. The model will demonstrate “body politic” costs. Several attendees offered cost estimates for use in the model.
8. General Education – Ed Macauley, assisted by Lance Wood, Brian Cowan, and Curtis Christensen led a wide ranging discussion on sewer considerations which covered typical costs of an MBR system, operation of a plant, expected life (20 yrs), probability of raw sewage bypasses (insignificant because of built in redundancy), winter effluent storage, funding, etc.
9. Several times during the meeting Louis Cooper reinforced the need to make sure sewer implementation reinforces the vision of the Ogden Valley General Plan, to create densely populated villages separated by open space. It is easy to see how unplanned sewer implementation could generate dense sprawl. Ed Macauley indicated that fewer sewer districts would make a desirable outcome more likely. The greater the number of districts the more complicated planning becomes. Lance Wood reinforced this concept.
10. Brian Cowan pointed the Committee toward two EPA documents he felt would be useful. They are: **Voluntary National Guidelines for Management of Onsite and Clustered (Decentralized) Wastewater Treatment Systems**, go to (ctrl + click on the link(s) below)
www.epa.gov/owm/septic/pubs/septic_guidelines.pdf
and **Draft Management Handbook for Management of Onsite and Clustered (Decentralized) Wastewater Treatment Systems**, go to
www.epa.gov/owm/septic/pubs/septic_management_handbook.pdf
(Ed. Note: After looking at them I recommend the second book be read first. Both are based on the premise that septic systems can be managed for long term use.)
11. The **next meeting is scheduled for March 1 at 5 PM** in the Huntsville Library.
12. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 PM.