

GEM Committee Minutes – March 1, 2007

It was a very snowy day, an extra thank you to those who braved the storm to attend!

1. Attendance: Joan Blanchard, Jim Ormsbee, Steve Clarke, Art Roscoe, Sharon Vause, Steve Roberts, Louis Cooper. Visitor, Brandon Fuller. Excused: Pam Kramer, Sharon Holmstrom, Jamie Lythgoe, Laura Ault, John Klisch, Curtis Christensen, Lowell Peterson, Kim Wheatley, Brian Cowan, Alan Wheelwright, Ron Gleason.
2. Reading of the prior meeting minutes was dropped from the agenda.
3. New materials and input:
 - a. The update presentation given to the Commissioners on 2/5 was distributed.
 - b. Pineview Water Quality:
 - i. Weber Basin – Scott Peterson – felt reservoir quality could be managed.
 - ii. Brian Cowan – Agreed with Scott Peterson.
 - iii. State TMDL – John Whitehead – felt impairment was serious and required remediation.
 - iv. State TMDL – Kari Lundeen – Agreed with John Whitehead.
 - v. (We note that an earlier study estimated that 6200 septic systems could be supported and a later study indicated about 9000 systems could be supported (hence the 3 acre zoning)).

The Committee feels that while professional opinion is not unanimous, we as citizens feel the only responsible path is to pursue keeping as many pollutants as possible from the groundwater and surface water systems. We agree that properly constructed and managed septic systems do not contribute substantial amounts of pollutants. (That is not true of systems in various states of failure.) It also seems wise to pursue avenues such as vegetation buffers along streams and wetlands to prevent surface runoff from bringing pollutants to Pineview.

- c. The Onsite Wastewater Management books recommended by Brian Cowan had been distributed earlier or were distributed to attendees. These outline in progressive detail the 5 Management Models recommended by the EPA for the type of sewage treatment envisioned for the Valley. (If you don't feel the need to keep your books please return them so another can read them.)
- d. A conference call arranged by Jim Ormsbee with Jim Keller, Meridian, Idaho, of Keller and Associates, was reviewed. Mr. Keller's firm has been

engaged in planning and implementation of community sewer in areas very similar to Ogden Valley. He outlined the process they have used to arrive at recommendations and to implement those recommendations. (The Hansen-Luce Wastewater study distributed earlier follows that process to some degree.)

- e. Jim Ormsbee, who is licensed and certified as Level 3 in Wastewater Systems, reported on the Statewide Wastewater Conference in St. George (which was chaired by Brian Cowan). He made 4 presentations available to the Committee which outlined the experiences of Wasatch County in managing wastewater, and in other ways focused on the importance of Managing onsite systems of any size or type. He indicated Jon Sebba would be willing to repeat his presentation for our Committee, which Jim feels would be good. Brian Cowan also volunteered to present to the Committee. Steve Clarke will follow-up.
 - f. Kim Wheatley's white paper on wastewater in Ogden Valley was distributed for comment.
4. Development of alternate strategies was discussed. We concluded that 1) Continuing the current path would be a strategy, and 2) some Combination of Special Districts, Coordinating Board, and implementation of the various EPA models could be a set of strategies. There was discussion of having each major drainage be a special district.

We agreed to:

- a. Each Committee member consider what they feel should be done and email their strategy statement to Steve Clarke.
 - b. Steve Clarke would set a time with Jim Ormsbee and advertise an optional meeting to discuss alternatives. We felt Brian Cowan would be a big help during this session.
 - c. Louis Cooper recommended we consult with Judy Sims (State), Darwin Sorensen (Utah State University Water Research Lab.) for participation/input.
 - d. Steve Clarke will schedule Jon Sebba and Brian Cowan to present to the Committee.
5. There is some sentiment that we will be able to complete this work well before the end of June, which we feel will be useful to the Commission. The feeling is that we can analyze high-level plans and recommend steps to proceed without doing engineering level cost analysis.
6. Steve Clarke will schedule an update for the Commissioners within the first two weeks of March if possible for the purpose of keeping them abreast of our progress and getting their feedback as we go along.
7. The next regular meeting will be held **Thursday April 5th** at 5:00 P.M. in the Huntsville Library.