

DRAFT: Oct. 26, 2010
Approved: Nov. 23, 2010

Sewer Advisory Committee
October 19, 2010
6 PM
Grattan Township Hall

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the Sewer Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:05 pm.

II. Roll Call

Present: Frank Force, Terry Conley, Alan Rumbaugh, Jen Medema,
Absent: Tom Manikowski
Also in attendance, John Rydbeck and Robert Carlstrom from IA

III. Approval of the Agenda

Committee reviewed the agenda, Terry motioned to accept, and Alan approved agenda.

IV. Approval of the Minutes

Terry Conley motioned to approve the July minutes as written, motion seconded by Alan Rumbaugh.

V. Public Comment

Even though the facility tour was postponed, I/A offered cider and donuts for everybody, and two consultants for the price of one.

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Financial Review

- 1) Operations and Maintenance Fund – Brief update from Frank, and as expected dollars are getting tight, but usage fees are coming in from this month's billing.
- 2) RRCIF – Repair and Replace/Capital Improvement Fund. Income is from fees collected and designated to fund only sludge removal and prioritized repairs from the Assessment of Facilities report.

VII. New Business

A. Grattan WWTF

- 1) Permit Violation Allegation – The allegation arises from a failed crop at the Grattan discharge site where "ponding" of water occurred ~~this~~ last (2009) growing season. This led to a complaint from the grower about the NPDES permit being out of compliance with regards to discharge rates. Photos (2009) of the affected areas were examined.
- 2) Permit Compliance – A meeting ~~was~~ will be held with Leslie/MDNRE, Chad/Prein&Newhof, John from I/A and Frank to review records associated with DMP and permit. ~~After review, the discharge rates were found to be adhered to. Yet a~~ A concern

remaineds about the presence of rain puddles during an irrigation session. Photos of 2010 Grattan lagoons were also examined, and it was noted that water levels were way down.

- 3) Farmland Lease – Discussed the challenges in the field of accommodating both the needs of the sewer utility and the needs of the farmer, when it comes to planting and irrigating crops at the wastewater treatment facility. Therefore, before renewing any farmland leases at the treatment facility, the committee recommends exploring additional options that would optimize the conditions in the field. It was noted the DMP (discharge management plan) allows for corn and soy crops, yet forage or grass crops, are usually considered the most effective for nutrient uptake, etc.
- 4) Versluis Petition - Discussed the latest update regarding another outside party who has filed a complaint with the State against MDNRE regarding enforcement of our ~~DMP~~ Discharge permit
- 5) Big Pine Island SSO – In the course of paving the MDNR boat launch site, the contractors failed to secure locations of underground sewer and power lines. A buried electrical cable was cut, then in process of repairing it, the trencher operators nicked a sewer pipe. I/A was already on the scene and quickly contained the SSO. Grattan Township is seeking reimbursement from the responsible party(ies).

B. Irrigation/Collection System Upgrade Grattan/Vergennes

- 1) Update – The construction plan has been submitted to MDNRE for approval, now waiting for green light to bid out project. Given time constraints, engineers would like to get started on bid process immediately and have sought approval to do so.

VIII. Committee Communications

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm

Next meeting November 23, 2010 6pm

Submitted by
Jennifer Medema