

# SSTS Advisory Committee Notes

March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Attendee's:** Sara Heger, Aaron Jensen, Chris LeClair, Wayne Johnson, Pete Otterness, Terry Neff, Tom Girtz, Brent Rud, Matthew Summers, Jeff Grugel, Matt Spellman, Nick Haig, Mark Latterell, Brandon Montgomery, Lisa McCormick, and Scott Robinson

10:00 – 10:10 AM      Introductions, agenda review and vacancies on Committees. Sara Heger & Aaron Jensen

Aaron Jensen went over the vacancies on the committee. We have current openings in the Citizen, County Metro, Elected Official-2, MEHA, Municipal Building Inspector, Professional NC, NW, and SW, Small Business Assoc., and Assoc. of Home Inspectors

Other Topics:

Grease interceptor discussion from Chad Viland

10:10 – 11:00 AM      MPCA short update items

*Goal -- AC informed of ongoing activity*

1. Legislation proposed at the capitol – Aaron Jensen

a. HF332

Aaron Jensen provided an overview of the proposed bill. This is the weight restriction exemption bill proposed by MOWA for pumper trucks in the winter. The MPCA supports this bill and we will wait and see how it moves through legislation. Pete Otterness said the language is the same as last year's bill and this is the second time proposing this bill.

b. HF526

Aaron Jensen provided an overview of the proposed bill. This bill has to do with installer liability and would be added to 115.55. The MPCA doesn't support this bill as it will add confusion to our existing rules and seems to provide no added benefit to installers. Scott Robinson said that if he is putting the system in as designed then he should be covered already. Pete Otterness asked if there was more to this bill that we weren't aware of. Sara Heger said it could have something to do with the statute of limitations. Aaron Jensen said that this is an installer that has voiced some concerns to the legislator and this was the solution they came up with to address his issues.

Scott Robinson talked about the standard two type I systems for new lots. He talked about Lake County and Cook County that allow administrative variances for this

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provision. Taking that extra time to go through the variance has been prohibitive. Sara Heger said that this would continue to be a discussion. She also referenced that Wisconsin has been dealing with the holding tank lots and the management of those systems has been stressful. Scott Robinson also talked about the type III and type IV system type overlap.

### **2. Proposed rule change update – Brandon Montgomery**

- a. MOWA and State Permit Discussion
- b. Tank Pumping at Inspection

Brandon Montgomery provided an update on the status of the new rule. Overall, there has not been much change. He said that we anticipate getting the signatures from the commissioner and the governor in the May. The implementation of the new rule would not happen in the middle of the season, it would be a January 1 start date depending on when it gets final approval.

### **3. 2019 Talking Tour Meeting Attendance and brief summary of meetings – Aaron Jensen**

Aaron Jensen gave an update on the 2019 talking tour meeting. Thirteen meetings were held in January of 2019. The attendance was good with 60 counties, 14 cities, and 7 townships or other LGU's attending. Overall, there were 132 people that attended from 81 total LGU's. For a comparison there were 13 meetings held in 2018 that were attended by 62 counties, 15 cities, and 5 townships or other LGU's. A total of 116 people attended in 2018 from 82 LGU's. Aaron Jensen also provided some highlighted topics from the meetings. Contractor shortage, soils issues, Type III guidance, material quality issues, discussions on the new rule, county attorney training, LGU training, and septic system funding were all some of the issues discussed at multiple meetings. The MPCA will provide a summary of the meetings to LGU's.

Terry Neff asked which specialty areas were short on contractors. Aaron Jensen said that he heard the most about designers and inspectors. Building on that a little bit the inspectors that were not installers too, because there is some worry that those who install will fail the system, so they can design a new one for them and make more money.

Nick Haig talked about a webinar that will be hosted by the EPA coming up on career perspectives. Matt Summers asked if it is similarly hard for counties to find certified people. Pete Otterness said that it is hard to find certified people for the county jobs and they tend to have to find entry-level people and train them. Matt Summer said the U of M College has undergrad programs to get their students certified. Scott Robinson

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talked about the shortage of contractors in his area too. Sara Heger asked if we see information on the talking tour meetings in a future bulletin. Aaron Jensen said that a write up will be provided to LGU's soon.

### **4. MPCA Staff Update – Aaron Jensen**

Aaron Jensen provided an update on the staff. We just hired two new C&E staff to fill the vacancies in Brainerd and in Marshall. Aaron Patrick is now the new C&E staff in Brainerd and Connor Hegrenes is now the new C&E staff in Marshall. Gene Soderbeck recently retired as the SSTS section supervisor and Aaron Jensen was hired to fill Gene's vacancy. Cody Robinson is on leave until April 15 and will be back for a few months before deployment overseas. The now vacant SSTS coordinator's position will be filled as soon as possible. Nick Haig is now the supervisor of the certification and training unit and Matt Rotz has filled Nick's vacancy.

### **5. Co-mixing factsheet update – Brandon Montgomery**

Brandon Montgomery provided an update on the co-mixing factsheet. He explained that co-mixing is still allowed, but clarification was made on how the manure/septage is handled. All of the mixture must be treated as septage and land applied according to the 503 regulations. The updated version is on the SSTS webpage and on the feedlot webpage. Sara Heger asked if there was a specific reason it was updated. Brandon Montgomery said it has been a time coming and there was not a specific reason it was updated. Pete Otterness talked about the history he had with his area. It was about dealing with the waste once it was co-mingled.

### **6. Eljen GSW Distribution Media Product – Brandon Montgomery**

Brandon Montgomery provided an overview of the product. Eljen will be registered for distribution media for mounds only. The registration will happen this spring. We wanted to let people know that it is coming for this spring. Once it has registered you will see some of the examples that will help to explain the configuration. Sara Heger said that the manuals would be specific on how these will be installed. Please read those when you see them. Matt Summer asked why does it have to be mound only. Brandon Montgomery said that Eljen wants sand around the product that limits the application to mounds only. Sara Heger said that it would follow the normal sizing like all other distribution media. They asked about the U of M forms, they would look at adding that once the product is registered.

11:00 – 12:00 Member topics –

*Goal – Members bring up topics for discussion and consideration*

Committee Website: <http://septic.umn.edu/ssts-professionals/ssts-advisory-committee/>

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### Grease Interceptor discussion-

There was a question submitted by Chad Viland in regards to grease interceptors. The interpretation is that it can fall under two different rules. The SSTS and the plumbing code. Brandon Montgomery said that it can get a little tricky on who can deal with these. Sara Heger said the sizing of the grease interceptor is different in the DLI rule vs what we have talked about in the SSTS guidance. Nick Haig said there is a factsheet about the two-rule issue on our website. New construction for restaurants introduces grease traps with a separate building sewer for the grease trap and would fall under DLI jurisdiction. An existing system with only one building sewer leaving the restaurant makes things a bit more interesting. To be in current code it would need to have two building sewers. If it continues as one building sewer, it would be the first tank in the treatment train and would be part of the SSTS. Sara Heger asked if there is a registration for grease traps. Chad Viland's question is if I have co-mingled waste will the septic tank capture that grease. Brandon Montgomery said that there is no grease interceptor tank registered. Nick Haig said that you would need an engineer to sign off on that aspect of that design if it was part of an SSTS and not registered. Sara Heger said there are numerous restaurants that only have one building sewer and that there are some steps the designer can take to increase the capability of that first tank to capture grease. Nick Haig said designers can use their discretion about a baffle combination best for the situation. Scott Robinson talked about an ejector basin and the setback of the tank. Nick Haig said the factsheet he will send out to the group will help explain the setback discussion as well.

Another topic brought up was what would be the allowable soil verification used for the two verifications. Sara Heger wanted to know what the state requirements would be on this. Aaron Jensen provided an overview of where we are at in this discussion. Soil borings done by the designer and soil borings done by the county or with the designer would count as two soil verifications. Another combination would be two existing system inspections that verified soils. Lastly would be a designers soils and then one existing system inspection that verified soils. All would need to show documentation that the county, designer, or inspector actually conducted the soil boring. Her specific question was in regards to elevations. Aaron Jensen said that there was not an in depth discussion on elevations, but the thought would be that as long as they have depths or elevations it would be an acceptable form of soil verification. Scott Robinson talked about his area where one county just signs off as ok, and is that good enough. Nick Haig said that a detailed soil evaluation is required. Sara Heger asked if we are working on some guidance. Aaron Jensen said yes that we are working on some guidance. Matt Summers said that having all of the information in one place with signatures is really the only way to properly do a soil verification. Scott Robinson said that the verifications are a very important part and he would like to see a higher level of documentation.

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Pete Otterness said he has been asked if there has been a lot of freezing going on. It has been minimal in his area. Matt Summers has heard that it has been a very big problem in the NW. Terry Neff said he has not heard about many in his area. Scott Robinson said that the northeast has not seen much for freezing problems. Chris LeClair said that he has not heard of any in Ottertail. Mark Latterell said he has not heard anything in Stearns County. Brent Rud has not had much up in Beltrami County other than lines under mobile homes. The snow cover has helped insulate. Tom Girtz said that he knows a pumper in Morrison County and that he has been busy with calls.

SSTS quarterly meetings in 2019 - June 13, September 12 and December 12

Meeting adjourned at 12:25pm.