

SEPTAGE STUDY GROUP MEETING NOTES
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Meeting Date: November 14, 2018

Time: 9:30am - 3:30am

Location: Wausau Community Room, Marathon County Library

Attendees

Group Members	Guests
Jim Arch, WI Land & Water Conservation Assoc.	Emily St. Aubin, DNR
Corey Bowen, WI Liquid Waste Carriers	Steve Warner, DNR
Bill Dyer, Herzog-Dyer Excavating & Sanitation	Joe Knilans, SBA Office of Advocacy
Brad Johnson, DSPS POWTS Program	Al Morrison, Citizen
George Klaetsch, Klaetsch Public Affairs Strategies	Yu Zhuang, DNR
David Kons, Kons Septic Service, Inc.	
Nancy Mistele, DOA Small Business	
Chris Olson, WI County Code Adm.	
Sue Porter, DATCP	
Dale Stanford, Stanford's Septic Service	
Megan Taylor, Cans to Go	
Vanessa Wishart, Stafford Rosenbaum LLP (via phone)	
Sharon Gayan, DNR	
Adrian Stocks, DNR	
Wade Strickland, DNR	
Fred Hegeman, DNR	
Alexis Peter, DNR	
Emily James, DNR	
Rachel Angel, DNR	

Absent: Dan Bahr, WI Counties Association; Aaron Ausen, WI Onsite Water Recycling Association; Matt Krueger, WI Land & Water Cons; Brian Cunningham, WI County Code Adm.

Meeting Summary

Opening Remarks – Adrian Stocks, DNR

Stocks welcomed the group, provided an update on the training for the new septage storage general permit scheduled for December 12, 2018, provided a summary of the meeting agenda and reviewed previous meeting notes. Bill Dyer moved to approve May 24, 2018 meeting notes. Dave Kons provided a second. Meeting notes approved.

NR 113/114 Scope Statement Discussion – Wade Strickland, DNR

Strickland presented an overview of the rulemaking process. The process includes a 30-month deadline and several public hearing meetings throughout the state. Copies of the Governor approved scope statement was provided to the study group prior to the meeting. The scope statement will require approval by the Natural Resource Board (NRB) before the department is able to work on any rule changes. The NRB meeting is open to the public. Public comments can be made during the comment period of the meeting which is typically scheduled prior to agenda

topics for the meeting. The NRB meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2019. The septage study group discussed having another meeting in February after the NRB meeting.

The group discussed concerns about the rule change moving forward with administrative changes, ensuring the scope statement is broad enough to address all the updates the group has suggested, and bringing in other stakeholders and agencies early in the process.

The department committed to holding future study group meetings with the sole focus of rulemaking.

Sandy Sites Discussion – Fred Hegeman

Hegeman discussed a streamlined sandy sites variance process the department is proposing. The draft form would allow businesses to request land application of septage on soils with permeability between 6 to 10 inches/hour with sufficient available water holding capacity. Administrative code requirements include specific information that needs to be submitted as part of the variance for the department to review and approve such submittal. The process excludes certain counties with sensitive geology and other code requirements (e.g., slope greater than 6% for surface spreading). The department indicated it will be developing a fact sheet relating to the streamlined variance process.

The group discussed nutrient management requirements and how management practices to improve soil health may be considered for variance requests. Also discussed was future management options including low impact injectors where a crop could be maintained during applications. The group discussed keeping variance options open for future technologies.

Nutrient Management, Soil Erosion, Soil Conservation – Sue Porter, DATCP & Jim Arch, Land and Water Conservation Association

Porter provided a presentation on code requirements relating to nutrient management for different nutrient sources. Porter explained the goal of nutrient management to reduce soil and nutrient loss via runoff. An example was shown where SNAPPlus was implemented for a septage application. A comparison of septage and manure spreading requirements was also shared.

Arch provided a presentation on land application technologies and described how each practice could be applied for septage spreading. Both presentations are available on the study group website.

Current Trends and Strategy Development for Increasing Septage Disposal at Wastewater Treatment Facilities – Fred Hegeman, DNR

Hegeman provided background and perspective relating to septage from several perspectives including wastewater treatment facilities and septage servicing companies. Wastewater treatment facilities have concerns with solids handling due to the large monetary costs for both capital and operating and maintenance.

The characteristics of septic tank waste has changed with the implementation of the county maintenance program. The trend with wastewater treatment plants is to use contract haulers for solid disposal rather than the septage haulers.

More recently treatment facilities have been required to evaluate the integration of septage receiving facilities but without predictable pricing, the septage haulers wouldn't commit to taking all their septage to the plants. Without firm commitment from septage haulers, smaller treatment facilities often do not adequately engineer/install septage receiving stations. This result in limited disposal options often resulting land disposal.

Future strategies for handling of septic, holding, and grease trap waste will require input from a wide range of interested parties, such as those represented on the septage study group who represent others from their industries. The department is currently developing a survey to collect information from wastewater treatment facilities relating to disposal/treatment rates, equipment needs, concerns, and other septage receiving information. Other potential concepts were provided and discussed in the presentation including reducing the amount of septage generated. One option included converting holding tanks to onsite wastewater treatment systems when appropriate along with other concepts. The presentation is available on the study group website.

Stocks discussed the potential for providing funding for treatment plants prioritizing septage receiving facilities through the Clean Water Fund. Porter suggested viewing the wastes as a fertilizer source and managing the nutrients as any other type of fertilizer, ensuring there is enough land to spread the fertilizer.

Stocks thanked the members for their attendance and discussion on these important topics.

Meeting Adjourned