

FLATHEAD REGIONAL WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT GROUP
MINUTES OF JANUARY 11, 2011
11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM A & B
EARL BENNETT BUILDING
KALISPELL, MONTANA

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Others</u>
Turner Askew	Judel Buls
Dan Bangman	Larry Van Rinsum
Kate Cassidy	
Ned Cooney	
Mike Durglo	
Joni Emrick	
Pam Holmquist	
Marc Liechti	
Joe Russell	
Donny Saisbury	
Mike Shepard	
Jim Simpson	
Julie Spencer	
Chuck Stearns	
Susie Turner	
Chuck Wilhoit	
John Wilson	

Call to Order

Ned Cooney, Flathead Regional Wastewater Management Group (FRWMG) Facilitator, called the meeting to order at 11:00 A.M.

Self-Introductions

Each individual introduced themselves and stated which department or agency they represented.

Public Comments

Judel Buls informed the Group that there will be a two-day nutrient trading workshop in April. She said that it would be beneficial for members of the FRWMG to attend.

Launch Planning Process for a Regional Wastewater Plan

Cooney provided an overview of the Group's past discussions. Following the overview, he presented plans for future discussion topics.

Cooney asked the Group to identify and write down what they would like to see in place for managing wastewater in the next 10 years. The Group divided into four individual subgroups to discuss their concerns and what they would like to see happen in the future.

The subgroups established the following ideas:

Group 1–

- Voters in the basin support a septic management regulation
- Determine contribution of septic tanks on Flathead Lake nutrients
- Consider private businesses and solutions for wastewater management
- Development of a nutrient training/credit program
- Create a non-point source TMDL
- Establish water quality based treatment standards

- Better communication/education with the public
- All solutions are cost effective and affordable

Group 2–

- Form districts to implement inspections
- Districting
- Assess if the septage system impacts Flathead Lake. If so, where? Identify on maps
- Encourage best management practices for septage treatment/compost before land application
- TMDL allocation include non-point source
- Reuse of wastewater for irrigation
- Require level 2 (secondary treatment) on close proximity to ground water, lakes, streams, rivers, and density

Group 3–

- Education and outreach on septic maintenance
- Inspection and maintenance of septic
- Financial incentives for improved septic treatment
- Increased reuse of affluent
- Best management practices and education for non-point source
- Cluster developments with treatment, operations, cooperation, and sharing equipment
- Good map of sewer service areas
- TMDL credits for trading for central systems to take on septic
- More knowledge/regulation on septic haulers
- Funding or financial incentives to connect logical septic central system
- Engineering cost benefit analysis of some policy options
- Increase sampling and monitoring
- Septage receiving station

Group 4–

- Develop septic tank inspection and certification program - critical areas first then phase in the others
- Organize group professionals – decision makers, Helena, County Commissioners, Planning

The Group will continue to discuss these items during the February meeting.

The next meeting will be held on February 8th from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at the Health Department in Conference Room A & B.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

Lisa Dennison, Secretary