

FLATHEAD REGIONAL WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT GROUP
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 9, 2010
11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
CITY OF KALISPELL ADVANCED WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
2001 AIRPORT ROAD
KALISPELL, MONTANA

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Members Absent</u>	<u>Others</u>
Dan Bangeman	Turner Askew	Judel Buls
Kate Cassidy	Joe Brenneman	Mike Holecek
Ned Cooney	Laurie Ellenwood	Wendee Jacobs
Joni Emrick	Mike Durglo	Dick Montgomery
Jim Foster	Pam Holmquist	
Jane Howington	Bill Shaw	
Curtis Konecky		
Marc Liechti		
Joe Russell		
Mike Shepard		
Jim Simpson		
Chuck Stearns		
Susie Turner		
John Wilson		

Call to Order

Ned Cooney, Flathead Regional Wastewater Management Group (FRWMG) Facilitator, called the meeting to order at 11:02 A.M.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Guest Presentations:

Jane Howington, Kalispell City Manager Presentation-
Jane Howington provided a presentation on a proposed regional approach to septage treatment and disposal. The City is looking at the possibility of establishing a package treatment plant that would be separate from any of the current wastewater processing treatment plants. The proposed package treatment plant would breakdown and treat septage, and because it is a closed-looped system, the result of the process would provide energy as well as an organic char that could be developed into an organic fertilizer. Howington provided further information regarding innovated use of biomass and wastewater treatment. Before building the package treatment plant, they will need to know if there is a market for the septage. Thus, septic systems and land application would need to be regulated. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has stated that the most appropriate agency to regulate land application and septic systems would be the County. Howington stated that they need to determine if the County is willing to conduct that type of regulation. The City is not willing to regulate land application and/or septage management. She added that the cities are moving slowly with the plant planning process until they receive feedback from everyone to ensure that this project is needed and agreed upon.

Mike Holecek with Algae Aqua-Culture Technology (AACT) presented information regarding the package treatment plant technology and process. There was general discussion regarding the proposed treatment plant's operation and technology. Howington anticipated that planning, modeling, obtaining partnership agreements, and reviewing the regulatory process would take approximately two years. Joe Russell had a concern regarding Title 75 of the Montana Powers and Duties of the Boards of Health and the regulatory process of septage. He stated that a county-wide septic system management district would be the fastest way to resolve the regulatory issues. There was further discussion regarding local

regulation of septage and land application. Howington said that the City did not receive the Federal Clean Climate Clean Communities planning grant but they believe that there are other funding opportunities that they can pursue. It was asked how the discussed treatment process will help the TMDL. Judel Buls suggested that studies, sampling, and land application assessments be conducted before a facility is built to determine the relationship between the treatment process and the TMDL. There was discussion regarding the profits made by the proposed treatment system.

Break for lunch.

Mike Shepard asked if there will be one large central plant or several small plants in various areas to accommodate hauling costs. Holecek said that they have discussed both options. The northern part of the valley would be suitable for a centralized facility although it depends on how the infrastructure is constructed. Shepard inquired about the costs of construction. Holecek said that the revenue that is generated annually out of a 6,000 square foot facility is \$800,000 to 2.5 million dollars with about 1.5 million in developmental costs. Holecek provided further explanation of the costs involved in construction. This information will be presented to the County Commissioners in January. Howington said that since she has been presenting information to the Commissioners on a quarterly basis, she would recommend that they not provide any further information until the FRWMG has provided their response to this proposed project. She asked that the Group inform her if they agree or disagree with the project. Buls inquired about future funding for planning and construction. Howington said that the funding agency needs to be the County but the City is willing to take the lead in pursuing grant opportunities for this project. The Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC) is very interested in this process and having it located on the campus. They have also expressed the willingness to have their grant writers work with the City on this project. It would cost approximately \$40,000 to establish a scale model on the college campus. Holecek said that the scale model at FVCC would predominately be used for research. It was asked when Holecek will be releasing the pro forma. Holecek said that they will not distribute anything of significance until after they have reached a live scale model. Howington said that she has a narrative of the work plan proposal which includes the project summary, a description of the system, scope of the work, etc. She mentioned that the work plan could be sent to the Group for review.

Discuss Topic and Confirm Date for Next Meeting

Cooney listed possible topics to be discussed at future meetings. They include:

- Follow-up to the TMDL presentation from last month's meeting
- Nutrient trading policy and the discussions in Helena regarding the policy
- Collect, present, and review, examples of plans from other areas including a plan from Tahoe and the septage study from Colorado that was obtained by Chuck Stearns
- Conduct a broad overview of planning and growth

Buls stated that she knows individuals who have conducted numerous nutrient trading programs throughout the United States who could provide a presentation to the Group.

Shepard commented that during December's meeting he would like to have a final follow-up discussion regarding TMDL as well as discuss planning and growth potential. During January's meeting, he would like to discuss the topics that have not yet been reviewed by the Group such as the nutrient trading policy. He would also like to review what other states are doing in regards to their septage issues.

There was further general discussion regarding the nutrient trading policy and the TMDL. Cooney stated that the Group needs to review examples of strategic plans from other areas that have similar geographic features to Flathead Valley. He added that they should review those examples during December's

meeting. Kate Cassidy stated that she received Stearns' Colorado septage study on a data CD. She will create copies of that CD to distribute to the Group if they preferred.

The next meeting will be on December 14th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Health Department.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

Lisa Dennison, Secretary