



Municipality of Anchorage

Dan Sullivan, Mayor



ON-SITE SYSTEMS TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: April 11, 2011

Members Present: Joel Neimeyer
Scott Hattenburg
Mark Spafford
Lori Davey
Matt Edge

Absent: None

Staff Present: Sharen Walsh
Ross Noffsinger
Jay Crewdson

Visitors Present: Gus Andress/BioCycle
Lars Spurkland/Spurkland Engineering
Dean Eisberg/Land owner
Paul Michelsohn/Contractor
James MacInnis/ADEC
William Rieth/ADEC

The meeting was called to order at 11:40 p.m. by Joel Neimeyer. All participants introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the February 9, 2011 meeting was approved.

Staff Report:

On-site is seeing the number of COSA and permit applications pick up as the construction season begins. Business is going along pretty much as usual.

Old Business:

Gus Andress/BioCycle and his engineer, Lars Spurkland/Spurkland Engineering discussed why they felt the Category III test requirements set forth in a letter written by Jay Crewdson on March 1, 2011 should be waived. The Board discussed the topic with Gus, Lars, and MOA staff. The Board's final decision was for BioCycle and On-site to work out how to proceed with the approval process. The Board suggested the approval process testing should be done on homes that are reasonably close to the maximum number of occupants allowed for the configuration being tested, and not to be as concerned about the volume of flow actually generated.

The Technical Review Board discussed when to meet again to work on the wastewater code rewrite. It was decided to schedule a meeting as quickly as possible, depending on the required notice period.

New Business:

Dean Eisberg/Owner and Paul Michelsohn/Contractor presented their case regarding why the use of a sewage holding tank should be allowed for development of Mr. Eisberg's vacant property. The Board discussed the issue with Dean, Paul, ADEC staff and MOA staff. The Board's final conclusion was that any of the options where the MOA has jurisdiction over the project would entail the Anchorage Assembly adopting a code change to allow holding tanks for new construction. Other options discussed would place the project under the jurisdiction of the ADEC.

Sharen Walsh presented to the Board why a code rewrite is needed regarding the installation of holding tanks in conjunction with new property development. The main point of the presentation was that the MOA needs to have the flexibility to consider the use of a holding tank for new property development when there are no other viable options but the property otherwise meets development requirements. The present code does not allow this flexibility and is so restrictive that even the Technical Review Board does not have latitude to hear appeals on the subject.. Changing the code would put the MOA on par with how the ADEC is regulating holding tanks, which would help afford a developer the same set of rules regardless of the governing agency. The Board agreed with the proposal and suggested it be worked on as part of the code rewrite sessions and then brought before the Anchorage Assembly for approval.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.