

**ON-SITE WATER & WASTEWATER TECHNICAL  
REVIEW BOARD MEETING  
Planning and Development Center  
4700 Elmore Road  
Anchorage, Alaska**

**May 8, 2019  
12:00 p.m.**

**Technical Review Board Members Present:**

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**Name**

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Jeff Garness  
Kurt Sauers  
Donna Mears  
Mark Swenson  
Kyle Brown

**Also in attendance**

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**Name**

**Representing**

Deb Wockenfuss	MOA/Development Services Department (DSD)
Rebecca Carroll	MOA/DSD
Ross Noffsinger	MOA/DSD
Bill Rieth	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)
Tom Varney	Anchorage Tank & Welding Inc.
Mike Blakeslee	A Plus
Chris Worden	Biocycle Alaska

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

CHAIR Mears called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. A quorum was established.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

CHAIR Mears asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Minor changes were made. *Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved with changes.*

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

CHAIR Mears asked if there were any changes to the minutes. Hearing none, **Mr. Brown motioned, and Mr. Garness second. Approved unanimously.**

**4. INTRODUCTION**

Bob Doehl introduced himself as the new Building Official and Director of Development Services Department and he looked forward to working with everyone. Introductions continued around the table.

**5. NEW BUSINESS - NONE**

**6. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMATIONAL**

**a. 15.55 and 15.65 proposed code changes – status**

Chair Mears asked how things were going with 15.65 and whether there had been meetings with industry. Staff noted that there had been one meeting with industry, during which the proposed changes were discussed. Some of the proposed

changes were deferred to a future meeting once staff or industry had a chance to propose some code language to facilitate discussion. It was asked when the next meeting would be; much later as the busy season is upon us (aim for early September).

Chair Mears stated she missed discussing the next meeting date and time earlier. It was discussed that the June 12 meeting should be canceled, and the next meeting will be July 10.

The board began discussing 15.55 regarding the process and timeline – Staff commented they have a form that was used for other code rewrites and would send it out to industry with a timeframe to submit changes. Once the proposed changes are received, staff will schedule meeting(s) with a work group to discuss. Changes will then be incorporated into code and the draft code would be presented to the board. Board would like to avoid the line-by-line approval process that was followed during the 15.65 rewrite. There was some discussion about how to get industry involved and about doing another nitrate study.

After a lengthy timeline discussion, it was decided the proposed changes would be due the last week of September, have a public comment section at board's October meeting with the hopes of having a draft to the board in January and then send it to the Alaska Water Well Association in time for their conference (February) for their review and comment. Kurt, Kyle and Jeff agreed they would help with the committee working group.

#### **b. Tank Approvals**

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding what is proposed in code regarding AWWTS maintenance providers, and industry wanting to make sure they were heard before anything is finalized. The final decision was to have the concerns brought before the board at the next meeting.

Staff stated tanks are the major effort right now. Currently, the only approved tanks are the plastic Infiltrator at 4-foot burial, the plastic Greer at 4-foot burial, and the Wasilla Concrete at 6-foot burial. There are two concrete tanks in structural review, both going for a 10-foot burial. There was talk of tanks, groundwater and if industry was building tanks with groundwater in mind. There was some discussion regarding submittal processes, coating and structural analysis. Staff commented that permits submitted before May 1 can follow old tank requirements. Any of these permits must be renewed after a year will have to comply with the new requirements

#### **c. Alternative disposal for water softener backwash**

Board member Garness spoke about the issues of water softeners discharging into septic systems. He advised the room that water softener backwash was considered a domestic wastewater per State code because they back wash with a strong brine. The concern is if you start disturbing the sludge zone with brine, you don't get good settling. In addition, the manufacturers of some of the advanced treatment systems will void their warranty if the system receives water softener backwash. It would be nice to have something in our code for drinking water backwash, so it doesn't go into the treatment systems (i.e. discharge to a something similar to a drywell, with reduced separations to wells and surface water). State recommends not using a softener and to know your system. Chair Mears noted when we look at this during the well code rewrite, we coordinate with State.

#### **d. Earthquake update**

After a brief discussion it was decided unless something came up, the earthquake update can be taken off the agenda.

### **7. REPORTS/COMMENTS**

Staff is aiming for September for the next working group meeting to discuss 15.65 code changes.

### **8. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 1:18 p.m.