

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

**May 12, 2021  
11:30 a.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  
Ed Barrington

**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.
Steve Pannone	Pannone Engineering

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

CHAIR Mears called the meeting to order at 11:33 a.m. A quorum was established.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA / MINUTES**

**a. 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.*

**b. April 2021**

CHAIR Mears asked for a motion to approve the April minutes. **Mr. Barrington motioned, and Mr. Sauers second the motion. Approved unanimously**

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Elections**

Chair Mears relinquished the floor to Vice-Chair Swenson.

Vice-Chair Swenson opened the floor for nominations for Chair. **Mr. Sauers nominated Ms. Mears. Mr. Garness second the nomination. Unanimously Approved.**

Chair Mears thanked everyone for their confidence and opened the floor to Vice-Chair nominations. **Mr. Garness nominated Mr. Swenson. Mr. Sauers second the nomination. Unanimously Approved.**

**b. ADU's**

Chair Mears believes sometime back the municipality was pushing to allow for more opportunities for more Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's). She questioned whether septic system sizing based on bedroom count hindered people from adding ADUs. Discussion followed on utilizing the codified exception to 15.65.210D.2 and clarification to the deferred jurisdiction granted to the municipality by the state.

**4. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMATIONAL**

**a. Groundwater level adjustments for new septic system design**

Board member Sauers mentioned there has not been any follow up meeting yet. He noted there was not a real clear direction other than another work group session. Outside of collecting and tracking information on test holes, we will not make much progress on figuring out a new groundwater factor table without that type of data. Discussion continued with soils, application rates for different types of soils, the Idaho code, test borings and requiring sieves be done by an accredited lab. Staff is in support of developing test procedures, seeing how it goes and then writing a policy, so the industry knew what to expect.

**b. Nitrate testing standards – Tabled**

**c. Public Outreach**

Making sure the septic system maintenance pamphlet is sent out/shared. Staff will update the pamphlet; Tom Varney offered his assistance to work on graphics. Maybe a letter to the Community Councils explaining what the steel tank policy is would be helpful to let people know not all tanks need to be replaced after xx years.

**d. Utilizing Sand Filters to reduce absorption field size – Tabled.** A Doodle poll will be sent out to find a date and time for a meeting.

**5. COMMENTS**

**a. Board member comments**

We have an open board seat (homeowner north of Northern Lights) so please spread the word. Staff commented on sending an announcement to the Community Councils. It was noted the position has been open for a while.

**b. Staff comments - none**

**c. Public comment**

Mr. Varney noted the worldwide supply chain shortage is starting to affect us. We do not have any way to plan for it and we will just have to make adjustments when the time comes.

**6. UPCOMING MEETINGS & AGENDA ITEMS**

The board debated not meeting during the summer months. The board agreed to cancel June and July's meeting and to meet in August (possibly in-person).

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Brown motioned to adjourn. Mr. Garness second the motion.** Meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.