

Minutes
MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP
WASTEWATER DIVISION
STEERING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

9:30 a.m.

Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center
1001 Amber Avenue, Stevens Point, Wisconsin

1. CALL TO ORDER. The meeting was called to order by President Wally Thom at about 9:30 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Steering Committee members present:

Jeff DeJarlais	Ron Dickrell
Jeff Deitsch	Wally Thom
Ron Clish	Todd Fischer
John Krug	John Fales
Kevin Freber	John Kennedy
Paul Christensen	

Steering Committee members not present:

John Leonhard

Other members present:

Tim Reel	Kevin Russeth
Terry Siglinsky	Dean Gerber
Chris Shaw	Sue Olson
Jeff Schlegel	

3. WELCOME GUESTS. Chris Shaw and Sue Olson, from the City of Appleton, were welcomed as first time attendees of the Steering Committee meeting.

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES. President Wally Thom introduced the May 14, 2008, meeting minutes for approval and recognized motions to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

5. BUSINESS MATTERS.

5.1 Next Meeting Time. The Steering Committee is holding its next meeting on Wednesday, January 28, 2009, at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center, 1001 Amber Avenue, Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

5.2 Other Items. No other business items were discussed at this time.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT. Jeff Deitsch presented the Treasurer's Report which was approved by the Steering Committee.

7. PENDING POLICY ISSUES - ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Phosphorus Water Quality Standards.

Copies of Midwest Environmental Associates comments in response to MEG comments, dated September 4, 2008, were handed out to the group. Julie went over some notes from the advisory committee (AC) meeting on September 8 advisory committee meeting. The AC spent the majority of their time discussing the logistics of possible extended compliance schedules. EPA was going to look into where other states in the region stood on the issue, and variances and trading policies were also discussed.

Paul began by suggesting a streamlined variance approach, which would span several permit cycles, allowing for time to bring nonpoint sources into compliance. For effective trading, cycles would need to be greater than the 10-year WPDES permit cycle. Several members thought their constituents would prefer to spend money on infrastructure rather than on trading, but it was agreed that trading should be kept on the table as an option.

Paul further suggested holding off on raising this issue with the Legislature, but that members should talk with industry representatives. We need to develop a broad based approach to include food processors and industry.

7.2 Mercury/Green Tier. The group met yesterday, September 9, 2008, in Plover. Kevin Russeth, Superior, reported on the meeting. Randy Case from DNR led the meeting. Plans were due to Randy by the end of July, and members should now be working on getting the information from their outreach plans out. The annual progress report for members is due February 15, 2009.

7.3 Rock River TMDL and Fox River TMDL. The EPA is seeking additional funding for further research. It looks like there will probably be a draft Rock River TMDL for public comment sometime in mid-2009. Green Bay is holding a joint meeting on the Fox River TMDL in early November to discuss load reduction reports and other options.

7.4 Stormwater Sediment Committee/Issues Management. The new draft rule NR 528 was handed out, as well as the draft Accumulated Sediment End Use Certification form and a brief explanation of changes in the new draft rule. Two changes in the new draft limits sampling for clean sites and requires additional testing when landspreading. It is presumed NR 528 will be in front of the Natural Resource Board this fall to approve hearings to be held either late in 2008 or early in 2009.

Other stormwater issues discussed were Phase 2 controls in the MS4 permit requirements, and that street sweeping was falling short. It was suggested that there

should be some way to organize municipalities to be more involved in stormwater issues, including the possibility of having a new section of MEG for stormwater.

8. PENDING POLICY ISSUES - INFORMATION ITEMS.

- 8.1. Water Quality Standards Revisions (NR 105).** Arsenic and copper were authorized for standards this summer. We will continue to watch for further development.
- 8.2. NR 151 Revisions (runoff/nonpoint).** Group met last in February, seems to be on hold for now.
- 8.3. Thermal Standards.** DNR is telling the EPA that they are not going to back down to allow for some variances. In addition to wastewater treatment facilities, this issue will also affect electric companies. This could be used to our benefit.
- 8.4. Ammonia Mass Limits.** DNR seems to be backing down on enforcement of these right now. They seem to be using concentration limits instead. We will continue to monitor.
- 8.5. Bacteria Standards / SSO Committee.** Nothing new happening right now on either of these issues, but could change at any time.
- 8.6. NR 149.** NR 149 went into effect at the beginning of September. If there are any issues in implementation, contact Paul.

9. MANAGEMENT ISSUES: NONE

- 10. CALL TO ADJOURN.** Motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded, without discussion. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.