

**Wastewater Management
Commission
December 9, 2015
Regular Meeting
~ Minutes ~
Final**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Thomas M. Ferrio

II. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Thomas M. Ferrio	Chairman	Present	
Elizabeth V. Richardson	Vice-Chairman	Present	
Peter Ogle	Chairman	Present	
Robert D. Frost	Commissioner	Present	
Barbara Lutzell	Commissioner	Absent	

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of October 14, 2015 Wastewater Management Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

Minutes approved with noted corrections.

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Elizabeth V. Richardson, Vice-Chairman
SECONDER:	Robert D. Frost, Commissioner
AYES:	Thomas M. Ferrio, Elizabeth V. Richardson, Peter Ogle, Robert D. Frost
ABSENT:	Barbara Lutzell

IV. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

1. Wastewater Manager's Report

Wastewater Manager's report was presented to the Commission members by the Wastewater Manager and was placed on file in the Wastewater Manager's office.

V. OLD BUSINESS

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Performance Standards

Discussion ensued regarding the evaluation of nitrogen removal in advanced Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems within the Greater Narragansett Bay Watershed.

A detailed study was conducted by URI/New England Onsite Wastewater Training Program. To evaluate the nitrogen removal efficiency of 42 systems within the Greater Narragansett Bay watershed (located in the Towns of Jamestown, Portsmouth, South Kingstown, North Kingstown and Charlestown), the total nitrogen in final effluent was measured, as well as a number of wastewater properties in the laboratory and in the field. The group monitored the performance of these 42 advanced nitrogen removal OWTS within the Greater Narragansett Bay watershed, collecting data monthly.

Mr. Ogle stated that from reading the report of the study prepared by George Loomis of URI/ New England Onsite Wastewater Training Program, what jumped out at him was that on the average, of all the systems that were tested, all of the systems seem to be meeting the nineteen parts per million (regulatory compliance level is final effluent total N₂ ≤ 19 mg/L).

Mr. Ogle stated that last week he went to a Technical Review Committee meeting at which there was a discussion on this topic. At this meeting, Mr. Ogle asked George Loomis if he would be willing to work with the residents of Quonochontaug to do similar testing on advanced nitrogen removal OWTS systems in the Quonochontaug area.

Mr. Frost stated that he thinks we should test in areas where there are more year round homes, as the seasonal homes might tend to show inconsistencies. He further stated that the area of the Narragansett Bay Watershed is really considered the Critical Resource Area.

Mr. Ogle stated that in the private water system that he belongs to, they are thinking of testing the IA systems within their water system. Mr. Ogle stated that he would like George Loomis' help with this. He further explained that he was able to get in touch with the Rhode Island Southern Conservation District and they are able to do this testing.

Mr. Dowling stated that he discussed this study with Virginia Lee, WWMC Town Council Liaison. Mr. Dowling further explained that he could request in his budget for the next fiscal year (FY 2017) monies for third party oversight of sampling and testing of X amount of IA systems. After discussing this with Virginia Lee, he feels that the Town Council would support this.

Mr. Ferrio stated that the one thing he came away with from reading over the study done by URI is that twenty five percent of the systems are not performing. These systems are doing half as much as they should, maybe even less. Mr. Dowling stated that over the span of time, according to the graphed data in the study, most of the systems are performing.

Regarding testing in Charlestown, Mr. Dowling stated that we would have to get volunteers, perhaps test ten or fifteen systems, and test in areas that are developed beyond carrying capacity. Mr. Ferrio suggested that testing could be done twice per year, in July and again in September and he suggested testing thirty systems.

2. Motion to put into the Budget decision, a program to evaluate the performance of approximately thirty Innovative and Alternative (IA) septic systems during the Summer and Fall of 2016.

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RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Peter Ogle, Chairman
SECONDER:	Elizabeth V. Richardson, Vice-Chairman
AYES:	Thomas M. Ferrio, Elizabeth V. Richardson, Peter Ogle, Robert D. Frost
ABSENT:	Barbara Lutzel

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was closed at 6:58 PM

Attest:

Bonnie Langlois, Recording Secretary

Minutes approved as written May 18, 2016