

Wastewater Management

Commission

July 8, 2015

Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

Final

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by

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	Present	

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of June 10, 2015 Wastewater Management Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to amend the first DRAFT minutes and to substitute these minutes with the second set of DRAFT minutes due to missing information in the first DRAFT minutes.

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

IV. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

1. Wastewater Manager's Report

Wastewater Manager's report was received and placed on file.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Charlestown Potable Water Working Group Discussion

There was a continuation of the discussion from the last meeting. Two items were voted on at the last meeting. One vote was about pressurized shallow narrow drain fields and the other vote was about the overlay district. Tom Gentz and Virginia Lee received correspondence from Tom Ferrio regarding information from the last WWMC and his explanation of what was discussed during the commission meeting. From his point of view, Mr. Ferrio believes that the things they are talking about regarding the Overlay District does not involve the Wastewater Management Commission, but rather is more of Mr. Dowling's purview and he would be the person on staff with the desired technical training related to water quality in Charlestown.

Mr. Ferrio mentioned the PSND vote and the current inspection reporting procedures for denitrification systems as well as the required performance monitoring for denitrification systems which falls under the purview of the Wastewater Management Commission.

Mr. Dowling stated that he sent letters to eleven Town-approved service providers who provide Operation and Maintenance agreements for denitrification systems notifying them of their requirement to submit the O & M report for each time they service an IA system to the Town via the Carmody database. Nine have responded, two have not. These two service providers provide service to the majority of the systems in Town. Mr. Dowling has spoken to these two service providers and is working with them to help them in satisfying this requirement. Mr. Dowling has also contacted Carmody and has recently streamlined the Operation and Maintenance form to fill out when an IA system is serviced, simplifying the process.

Mr. Dowling suggested contacting George Loomis at URI, as he has a group who is analyzing denitrification systems with pressurized drain fields for functionality - monitoring 19 systems in Westerly, Charlestown and South Kingstown area for cycle counts for each time the drain field is dosed, and collecting samples for laboratory analysis from those systems. This is a new, intensive study of the functionality in nitrogen reduction capabilities of denitrification systems. Matt has talked with David Kalen of URI, who is working on this through a grant over the next several months. Mr. Ogle stated that it would be a help to find out where they are with this study, where this stands, how it is going, and perhaps meet with them.

Discussion ensued regarding the use of Best Available Technology practices. Mr. Ferrio stated that he felt disappointed when he realized they are not close to having some of these new technologies fully approved for use. DEM is not ready to approve any new systems, perhaps due to a backlog at DEM; what has to be worked through is the scientific data, not emotions. Everybody seems to be pointing fingers at everyone else right now. Potentially, there are some very good systems out there; what is needed is to have a meeting with DEM. DEM staff seem conducive and open to continued discussions. Suggestion was made to get legislators involved over time as DEM seems willing to listen to them.

Mr. Ogle commented on the vote to recommend Pressurized Shallow Narrow Drain fields (PSND) become required first technology choice, only where technically feasible, in the Salt Pond Region SAMP, and how this will not happen until it is put in the Ordinance. A recommendation would need to be made to the Town Council regarding this. Another option would be for the Potable Water Working Group to bring a "package" with ideas to the Town Council. The WWMC would need to talk with the Town Solicitor prior to completely rewriting the Wastewater Ordinance, however this language from the vote could be inserted into the Ordinance with guidance from the Town Solicitor and approval from the Town Council. The State regulations allow the Town to have an Ordinance that is more stringent than the State regulations.

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If the WWMC would like, Mr. Ferrio can work on the next steps to implement this, socialize it with the Potable Water Working Group: find out whether they want to bring a packet to the Town Council or whether they want things to come piecemeal? Mr. Ferrio offered to start working on the form that this would be in with regard to the legal framework or any kind of DEM approval. This process will involve first the Town Solicitors, then the Town Council, then the PWWG, and then DEM.

Mr. Ogle volunteered to do follow up with DEM regarding Advanced Advanced Treatment Systems with regards to Best Available Technology.

Mr. Dowling stated that he will follow up with George Loomis and David Kalen, URI, on the status of the sampling project relating to the required performance modeling.

Mr. Dowling will continue working on the current inspection reporting procedures and is making some good progress on adapting it as he goes.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

None

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Steve Hoff asked for a clarification of the WWMC discussion on creating an overlay district. Mr. Ferrio confirmed that creating an overlay district would not be handled by this Commission. Mr. Ferrio explained that the WWMC was unsure what the overlay for regulation discussed at the last PWWG (Potable Water Working Group) meeting would be used for. Mr. Ferrio stated that some of the things it is going to be used for are not wastewater related and the membership of the WWMC does not have the scientific background to be able to do such things in general. The Commission voted no to developing an overlay district.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was closed at 7:06 PM.

Attest:

Bonnie Langlois, Recording Secretary