

WASTEWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 11, 2014

CHICO ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS ** 1160 E. 1ST AVENUE, CHICO

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- I. Preliminary Items
- A. Call to Order
Nick called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.
- B. Role Call and Determination of Quorum
Nick Weigel, Jan Hill, Lauralyn Lambert, Bill Dinsmore, Rick McCauley, DC Jones, and Will Arnold, were present.
Wes Gilbert, Priscilla Rawlings (alternate) and Doug Flesher (alternate) were absent.
A quorum was established.
- C. Introduction of Guests
John Hoffman, Robert Perkins, Patrice Sorensen, Buddy Nottingham, and Bryan Cobb attended as guests. Brad Banner, Kristen McKillop, and Charlotte Walters attended the meeting on behalf of the Public Health Department.
- D. Review of Minutes
The meeting notes from October 15, 2013 meeting were reviewed. The meeting in question did not have a quorum, so no action was taken.
- E. Agenda Review
No changes were requested.
- F. Public Comments and Input
DC shared information about recent Water Commission meetings that have taken input from the public on hydraulic fracturing.
- II. Action Items
- A. Election of Officers
- Brad pointed out that the committee by-laws set 2 year terms for the committee Chair and Vice-Chair.
 - Lauralyn made a motion that the committee Chair and Vice-Chair remain the same (Nick and DC). Jan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Septic Tank Abandonment Policy

1. Kristen presented the policy “Onsite Wastewater System Abandonment/Destruction Policy,” attached.
2. Jan made a motion to recommend adoption of the policy as written. DC seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

C. Encroachment Matrix

1. Brad presented the Encroachment Matrix and explained that it would be guide for staff to help assure consistency.
2. In the column for “repair or replacement of an existing structure within septic tank or drainfield setbacks,” the committee recommended adding a note stating that the septic tank must remain accessible for servicing and repair.
3. In the column for “new encroachment without increase in design flow,” the committee recommended adding notes stating that “setback reductions to drainfield are typically not approved” and “verification is required that 100% repair and replacement drainfield area available.”
4. Bill questioned why upgrading the system to current soil depth and treatment level standards would not be required. Brad explained that the Board of Supervisor made it clear when the Onsite Wastewater Ordinance was adopted in 2010 that upgrade to supplemental treatment would only be required when severe soil or watertable conditions were present.
5. Will made a motion to recommend adoption of the matrix as discussed. Lauralyn seconded the motion and the motion passed 6-0, with one abstention.

III. Informational Non-Action Items

A. Member Selection for Technical Appeals Board

1. Brad pointed out that in order for the LEA (Environmental Health) to meet the appeal process timeline specified in the Onsite Wastewater Ordinance, membership of the Technical Appeals Board needed to be established by the Board of Supervisors at the beginning of the year. Brad also noted that the composition of the three member Technical Appeals Board specified in the Ordinance is (1) The Chair of the Wastewater Advisory Committee, (2) An engineer, and (3) A non-engineer.
2. Bill stated that he was not available to sit on the Board, leaving Wes Gilbert to be asked. Jan volunteered to have his name put forward to the Board.

B. Discussion of Recent Training Events

1. Brad noted that the December Wastewater Workshop at the Gold Country Casino was well received.
2. Nick discussed the week long training event and symposium put on by COWA in Malibu. Nick also described discussions taking place within COWA about expanding its mission to include onsite water reuse, rain catchment, and other

onsite water related issues. Members of the group expressed support for the expanded COWA mission.

C. Discussion of Presentation to the Oroville Association of Realtors

1. Buddy and Will described the presentation to the Realtors on the subject of well and septic evaluation at time of property sale. Other professionals participating in the presentation to the Realtors included Jack Biggs, David Moench, and John Riley. Lauralyn stated that Realtor meetings were not as well attended as desired, and that the Realtors were concerned about more bureaucratic involvement in real estate transactions.
2. All parties expressed a desire for additional educational outreach to Realtors in the county concerning evaluation of onsite wastewater systems.

D. Discussion of Committee Workplan for 2014

1. Brad distributed results from the online survey, but the data was of little value since only five people (which included two WAC members) completed the survey.
2. Issues of concern expressed by committee members in the discussion of future advisory committee priorities included enhanced enforcement, meaningful educational opportunities and training, and establishing a program for certified evaluators existing onsite wastewater systems.

IV. Agenda Preparation for Next Meeting

The group agreed that meetings should be quarterly, unless pressing issues required more frequent meetings. The next meeting was scheduled for the third Tuesday of May, May 20, 2014 on Oroville.

V. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Chapter 6. On-site Wastewater System Abandonment/Destruction

Policy

Section 722.2 of the Uniform Plumbing Code, and Section 115700 of the California Health and Safety Code require that an abandoned septic tank or one that is no longer in use be properly destroyed.

Permit

A Application

The application for a Destruction Permit may be obtained through Butte County Environmental Health. While a homeowner may obtain the Destruction Permit, the system destruction must be done by a Licensed Contractor. The completed application shall be submitted along with the required fee and a scaled site plan which indicates the location of the existing septic tank(s) and current or known future structures.

B Issuance

The Destruction Permit will be issued along with a Declaration of Destruction form to be returned after final inspection. The system destruction must be done by a Licensed Contractor. Some work may be done by do-it-yourself property owners. However, all work must meet Butte County Environmental Health and Building Division requirements and pass inspection.

Obtaining the permit gives Environmental Health oversight of the abandonment process, and ensures that all structural requirements are met and the Declaration of Septic Tank Destruction is submitted at the time of inspection.

Process

1. The septic tank must be pumped and certified empty by a Certified Septage Pumper.
2. If the tank is to be destroyed in place and is greater than 5' from any existing or future proposed structures, the Licensed Contractor must ensure that the bottom of the tank is broken such that it is unable to hold water, and then filled with self-compacting soil, sand or pea gravel. Should the contractor choose to fill the empty tank with 2-sack slurry, breaking the bottom is not required. Should the contractor choose to remove the tank, the excavation must be backfilled with clean self-compacting soil, sand or pea-gravel.
3. If the tank is less than 5' from any existing or future proposed structures, a two-sack slurry mixture must be used to fill the tank, otherwise a Professional Engineer must certify the destruction methodology utilized.
4. Arrangements for inspection of the system destruction must be made through Butte County Environmental Health. In some instances, the Licensed Contractor may be able to submit electronic documentation of the destruction process in place of an on-site inspection.
5. The Licensed Contractor must submit the Declaration of Destruction form provided.

Encroachment Matrix

Approved by WAC Feb 11, 2014

	Repair or replacement of existing structure encroaching within the septic tank or drainfield setbacks?	New encroachment, no increase in design flow	Increase in design flow
Site assessment and soil evaluation performed?	No	No	Yes
Current drainfield sizing criteria must be met?	No	No	Yes
Current soil depth requirements and treatment level requirements must be met?	No	No, unless severe soil or watertable conditions exist	No, unless severe soil or watertable conditions exist
Septic tank must be upgraded to current capacity requirements?	No	Per table in Manual for repairs.	Per table in Manual for repairs.
Septic tank must be pumped and evaluated by a Certified Pumper, with completed Pumper's Report and Escrow Report required?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other	<p>Assumes the septic tank remains accessible for servicing and repair</p> <p>Assumes encroachment is not adversely affecting the structural integrity of the encroaching structure or the functionality of the septic system</p>	<p>Setback reductions to drainfield will generally not be approved</p> <p>Assumes encroachment will not adversely affect the structural integrity of the encroaching structure or the functionality of the septic system</p> <p>Like-for-like replacement allowed provided no more than 50% of drainfield is impacted by the encroachment</p> <p>If >50% of the drainfield will be impacted, follow requirements for "increase in design flow"</p> <p>Verification of 100% drainfield replacement area is available</p>	