

Final Minutes
Sewage Handling and Disposal Advisory Committee Meeting
November 2, 2007

The Sewage Handling and Disposal Advisory Committee met on Friday, November 2, 2007, at the James Madison Building, Fifth Floor Conference Room in Richmond.

The following committee members were present: Tom Basham, Chairman, Don Alexander, Rob Suydam, James Hall, John Harper, Jeff Howeth, William Keeling, Robert Lee, Joel Pinnix, Pam Pruett, Cal Sawyer, Jim Pyne and Bill Timmins and Robert Wadsworth. Donna Tiller was also present as Secretary to the Committee.

The following visitors were present: Chris Beatley, Delmarva Septic, Mary Clark and MD McCulley, Premier Tech, Rick Blackwell, Blackwell Engineering, and Steve Branz, Bord na Mona. From VDH, OEHS, John Aulbach, David Tiller and Allen Knapp.

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am.

The agenda was approved.

The minutes from September 14, 2007 were approved with two corrections.

Premier Tech then took questions and addressed issues from the members on their general approval request. Motion was made by _____Bob Lee_____to accept and grant secondary protocol general approval for Premier Tech Ecoflo. Jim Pyne second. Bill Timmins and Cal Sawyer abstained. The recommendation will now go to the Commissioner for approval.

Don Alexander opened the discussion on the draft GMP to replace the current GMPs 112, 114 and 118. He stated there would be three separate GMPs and they will not be combined into one, and he hoped they would be out by next week. Don stated if anyone had comments or suggestions to get with him. He also stated his intention was not to bring this GMP back to the committee for approval, but the motion was made by Joel Pinnix to get a copy before it goes out as policy two days before the next meeting, December 14th. Bob Lee seconded, Don Alexander abstained.

Allen Knapp gave an update on the Sewage Regulations. He gave a brief overview of comments from a series of public meetings held in early 2006 to seek input on the draft regulations. That group recommended VDH have a performance standard for nitrogen, but did not provide specific guidance on how to achieve it. Allen's questions to the committee: Should there be an exemption for SFD's? Should SFDs be deemed to comply if they follow prescriptive criteria? Should the nitrogen standard apply to the Chesapeake Bay only, or, all of the state? There was a general discussion of total nitrogen loading versus effluent concentration, potential for a nitrogen TMDL for the Bay, how to achieve nitrogen reduction in onsite systems, where to measure, what to measure, etc. Allen Knapp asked the Committee for its advice – should VDH move to regulate nitrogen in the new onsite regulations? Jim Pyne explained that the issue will be total nitrogen and Bill Keeling said the Bay model assumes 40% of nitrogen from onsite systems goes to the Bay. The committee did not vote on a motion, however the chairman, Tom Basham, informally asked if any members thought that VDH should not propose nitrogen standards for all onsite systems and no members spoke.

Meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm.