

**Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Sewage
Handling and Disposal Regulations
Design & Construction – Revisions Subgroup**

Date: April 14, 2022

Time: 10:00 am

Location: WebEx

Attendees:

Anthony Creech – VDH

Scott Vogel - VDH

Lance Gregory - VDH

Anne Powell – VDH

Andrew Carter – VDH

Brian Stanley – VDH

Ryder Bunce – VDH

Stephen Elgin - VDH

Robert Royall - VWWA

AJ Austin – Blue Ridge Health District

Joshua Anderson – Loudoun County Health District (LCHD)

Josh Hepner – LCHD

Scott Currie

Cindy McDow

Laure Spottswood

Bill Timmons

Phillip Brown

Skip Styles – Wetlands Watch

Tanya Pettus - DPOR

Jerry Franklin

Ed Pennypacker

Curtis Moore - Virginia Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (VOWRA)

1. Introductions

All in attendance introduced themselves to the group.

2. Review Workgroup’s “Purpose and Policy”

Anthony Creech opened the meeting by discussing the purpose of the subgroup, and outlining the protocol and applicability of the VDH Civility Policy. He noted that there will likely be overlap in efforts of the different subgroups. The intention of the first meeting is to put issues on the table. Not to begin drafting of new regulatory language but to instead identify the most pressing D&C issues to be addressed in revision of the regulations.

3. Discussion of issues needing revision

Utilities crossing force main or conveyance line (specifically a water line)

The subgroup discussed revision of Sections 592 and 700 of the SHDR to be in harmony with the plumbing code and the Waterworks Regulations. These sections are interpreted differently by various local health departments, which creates difficulty for drillers and other service providers. The SHDR should create a pathway (e.g., sleeving) to allow for crossing utilities

Watertightness of Septic Tanks

The subgroup discussed the importance of septic tank integrity, especially with respect to issues such as buoyancy. The discussion included PTAV's Virginia Performance Standard and the North Carolina regulations, which include tank standards and spot checks on manufacturer's lots.

Wastewater flow characterization

The subgroup discussed various aspects of wastewater flow characterization, including

- Whether credit remains warranted for conditional permits for water saving devices.
- Whether 75 gallons per day per person needs to be reconsidered.
- Consideration of water preservation issues such as graywater reuse.
- The effects of Air BnB and VRBO, wineries, breweries, marinas, campgrounds, and wedding venues.
- Clarifying that the permitted volume is a peak flow, not average flow. Users need to recognize that operating at peak flow consistently will result in early system failure.
- Understanding of fixture type and count rather than number of bedrooms; e.g. homes with luxury showers can use double or triple or more the water use than a typical shower.

Installation depth on sloping sites

The subgroup discussed strengthening the language for sites with slopes > 9% to eliminate ambiguity.

Pump systems

Discussion about adding limits to the amount of effluent to be pumped. Curtis Moore suggested time-dosing only.

Repairs and maintenance

Jerry Franklin noted that plastic distribution boxes often fail as a result of microbial based corrosion, suggested regulating anti-microbial application to extend life.

4. Additional Discussion

The subgroup discussed the merits of continuing a prescriptive form of regulations (such as the existing SHDR) as compared to a performance based form of regulations (such as the AOSS regulations). Brian Stanley noted that designers in southwest Virginia like prescriptive details.

The subgroup discussed whether the intended revisions would address matters currently addressed in GMPs and other guidance. Lance Gregory indicated that this is a goal wherever realistic to do so.

5. Next Steps for Subgroup / Preparation for Next Meeting

Anthony Creech concluded the meeting with the mention of the next meeting date on May 12, 2022 at 10:00am.

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Review Workgroup's "Purpose and Policy"
3. Background on specific aspects of SHDR and Code Authority
4. Proposal(s) from VDH Facilitator
5. Feedback from Subgroup Members
6. Additional Proposals from Subgroup Members
7. Next Steps for Subgroup / Preparation for Next Meeting