

Rules and Regulations Governing Campgrounds

Stakeholders Meeting

September 8, 2016

Final

Present: Chip Kramer (Virginia State Parks), Chad Ballard (Cherrystone Campground), Sam Noel (KOA), David Fridley(Three Rivers Health District), Tim Baker (West Piedmont Health District), Josh Newsome (Across the Way Productions), Keith Sessler(Mean Uncle Productions), Michelle Caruthers(ODW), Deborah Hoy(ODW), James Hopkins (Cherrystone Campground), Ray Barker (Virginia Campgrounds Association), Dave Frey (Lockn'), Ryan McKay(Thomas Jefferson Health District), Alan Mazurowski(Thomas Jefferson Health District), Dave Tiller (OEHS), Julie Henderson (OEHS), Olivia McCormick (OEHS)

Olivia McCormick called together the meeting at 9:35 am, explained the regulatory process, the goals of the revisions, and outlined the day's agenda. All stakeholders introduced themselves to the group and stated their professional affiliations.

The first topic of the meeting was temporary camping events; the proposed regulatory exemptions and substitute requirements were introduced. Stakeholders requested that permit durations be increased to cover multiple operational periods, and a suggestion was made that the time limit should be to temporary food permit durations (14 days). It was also suggested that regular, seasonal campgrounds have a permit that expired in 365 days instead at the end of every year on December 31. Several stakeholders commented that one portable per 50 campers was too strict of a requirement, but it also was discussed how this approximates the requirements for permanent facilities in year-round campgrounds. One stakeholder suggested a requirement of 75 campers to a portable toilet and OEHS agreed to revisit and review their information to determine if changes were needed.

Proposed changes to water requirements were reviewed. Minimum gallons per day were struck from the requirements. Stakeholders discussed the problems of posing requirements on hauled water when some of the water hauling activity, by nature, had to take place offsite of the temporary campground.

Sewage requirement sections were reviewed. Stakeholders expressed concern that water collection devices for solar showers are not readily available. All stakeholders held consensus that permanent camps and temporary camps should have the same requirements for distance to facilities from campsites. Campground owners requested that dump station requirements be lifted when all RV sites have direct connections, although others remarked that tent users have portable bucket toilets. After discussion it was agreed that portable bucket toilets can be emptied into flush toilets and privies. OEHS will look at specifying that portable toilets were allowed in any campground.

Exemptions for primitive camps were discussed with little comment.

Standards for cabins and other buildings were introduced. It was commented that half of the proposed standards were reiterations of the introductory statement and could be eliminated. Several stakeholders expressed concern that clearance requirements for headspace would cause problems at campgrounds that rent RVs and yurts.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm with an invitation to provide further feedback by email, and a commitment by OEHS to hold a second polycom meeting after revisions were made.