

IAWEA Small Community Committee Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2016
HR Green
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
10:00 to 12:00

I. Introductions

1. *Members Present: Matt Wildman, Dustin Miller (by phone), Ted Payseur, Adam Schnieders, Chelsea Huisman, Kene Shoop, Eric Evans, Jeremy Bril, Shawn Curtis, Larry Bryant, Patti Cale-Finnegan, Joe Bolkcom, Nick Fetty, KC McGinnis*
2. *Everyone introduced themselves and explained why they were interested in participating in the committee.*
3. *Attendance Sheet Attached.*

II. Committee Aims and Objectives

1. Increase small community participation in the IAWEA.
While the underlying goal of the committee is to help increase overall small community membership in IAWEA, the committee's objective is to provide value through education to the small communities and give them a good reason to join IAWEA.
2. Meet in person once a quarter and conduct a monthly conference call (24-32 hrs/yr).
The annual hours seems appropriate. The next meeting will be a conference call in late February and the next in person meeting will be in late March or early April in Grinnell. A Doodle poll will be sent out to firm up date and time.
3. Provide technical support in the review of new and existing treatment technologies being used for small communities around Iowa and provide recommendations or draft design guidance to the Iowa DNR for consideration.
Committee agreed on the formation of a sub-committee to tackle this objective. Current regulations, design guidance, administrative code, Clean Water Act, and other obstacles stand in the way of approval of new technologies. Larry Bryant is the sole new technology reviewer at the DNR and he would appreciate assistance from this committee in providing review and direction for new technologies.
4. Review existing design guidance for current technologies, especially from the reliability and redundancy stand point, and determine if there are effective ways to downsize treatment technologies so they can remain effective, and provide a more affordable solution for small communities.
The Technical Review Sub-Committee will review these issues similar to Item 3 above.
5. Evaluate and support research opportunities at the State Universities to study existing treatment systems, develop pilot and demonstration sites, and sample unregulated pollutants in the effluent (i.e. pharmaceuticals), etc.
Craig Just has proposed the Iowa Small Community Wastewater Project in a two page write up that was distributed. This outlines research opportunities

to gather information on various small community wastewater treatment technologies that are approved or are trying to get approved for use in the state of Iowa. This project would provide independent third party data for use in the approval of these technologies. The Committee also proposes to reach out to Iowa State University to invite them to participate in the committee as well.

6. Educate small communities around the state through use of workshops in each region. The workshops would be directed toward city officials and operators and the purpose would be to cover the following:
 - a. Upcoming regulations
 - b. Financial preparedness
 - c. Operator licensing changes
 - d. Treatment technology options
 - e. Collection Systems
 - f. Walk through the entire project process

Much discussion was held around opportunities for education around the state. Dustin Miller is going to coordinate with organizers of the Iowa League of Cities spring workshops held in June to get a water infrastructure topic on the agenda to start the outreach process. The Committee is going to work in the upcoming months to establish a presentation that can define what we are doing, what upcoming regulations there are, what funding options are available and discuss how small communities can be prepared for the future. The presentation at the June workshops will likely follow a similar format to a presentation in Benton County last fall.

7. Evaluate the Controlled Discharge Lagoon treatment technology, regulations, and application throughout Iowa.

There are approximately 550 controlled discharge lagoons in the state and some are working effectively and some are not. With only two required sampling periods a year, it is challenging to obtain adequate data to determine why. There may be a research opportunity here to obtain more data and determine if operations, industrial loads, sludge accumulation or other factors are contributing the successes or failures. There are hundreds of state labs that could be utilized to provide sampling of these systems.

III. Meeting Schedule

1. How often to meet – *Next meeting by conference call in February and next in person meeting in March/April. Doodle Poll will be sent out to firm up date and time.*
2. Workshops – *Initially, the committee is going to focus on existing workshops and conferences to disseminate information and hopefully build support and interest in the direction the committee is going. The first workshops will be the Iowa League of Cities workshops in June.*
3. Conference Calls

IV. Other Committee Members

1. Cities
2. Consultants
3. Universities
4. Regulators
5. Funding

The committee members will reach out to other possible members in the groups listed above. We want to reach out to the IDNR field offices and IAWEA Regional Directors to inform them of the committee goals and have them reach out to their regions. Please forward any interested people to Matt Wildman to get included on the email distribution list.

V. Other Discussion Items:

1. *Agenda for IDNR meeting from Benton County? Adam Schnieders may be able to provide something similar.*
2. *Engage Regional IDNR representatives*
3. *APWA, Rural Water*
4. *Small Community Committee Newsletter*
5. *IAWEA webpage for small community group, add link to today's coverage*
6. *IDNR databases for queries*

VI. Action Items:

1. *Ted will work with Dustin on the June workshops*
2. *Shawn/Jeremy will reach out to Kirkwood*
3. *Eric will reach out to Steve at DMACC*
4. *Eric will reach out to Tim Ellis at ISU*
5. *Dustin will talk to Tim Whipple at IAMU about participating in their workshops*
6. *Larry Bryant/Craig Just – Form a technical review subcommittee to determine best method for review of new technologies and how to provide benefit to the IDNR.*
7. *Matt Wildman will reach out to Kevin Moler to see if he is interested in participating in the technical review subcommittee.*
8. *On March 1 there is a legislative breakfast that Craig Just will be presenting at and Joe invited anyone who was interested to attend.*

VII. Adjourn