



JO DAVIESS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Jo Daviess County Health Department Environmental Health Committee

Wednesday, September 2, 2015, 4:00 p.m.

Jo Daviess County Health Department Conference Room

1. Call to Order

Ron Lubcke, President of the Board of Health, called the meeting to order at 4:06 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present: Dr. Ralph Losey, Jim Vormezelee, Kim Barrett, Ron Lubcke and Bill Bingham

Before starting Citizen Comments, Ron Lubcke thanked Dr. Ralph Losey and Kim Barrett for joining the Environmental Health Committee as members.

He then asked Matt Calvert, Director of Environmental Health, to give a brief summary of the previous meetings and progress made.

Matt reviewed the meetings and then gave a synopsis of the 9 rules of the 503 Sludge Rule.

3. Citizens' Comments: Ron Lubcke reminded everyone present that their comments would be limited to 5 minutes.

Richard Porter, attorney at Hinshaw and Culbertson, LLP, of Rockford, represents Mike and Nick Sproule Construction, INC, Mike and Laurie Sproule and Matt Heller. Mr. Porter is concerned that actions regarding land application of septic waste are being considered with no evidence against his clients. He reminded the Committee that they could not pass or recommend a law that would be in violation of standing statutes. He also reminded the Committee that the site in question is a "non-public site" located on private property.

Jeanne Norman spoke next reinforcing the fact that she and her family have attended 5 meetings regarding land application. Her major concerns are water and air quality, posing a health risk to her family and others. She wants to know who will monitor the dumping and wants the use of land application banned.

Dave Welu spoke next. He is a licensed pumper in Jo Daviess County and the tri-state area. He does not land apply, but travels to Dubuque, IA, where his company is located, and deposits his septage at the Dubuque municipal facility.

Ron Norman noted that a water tower is located close to the land application site.

4. Approval of the July 23, 2015 Environmental Health Committee Meeting Minutes

Bill Bingham motioned to accept the minutes, as presented, for the EH Meeting held on July 23, 2015, second by Jim Vormezeele. All in favor, motion passed.

Approval of the August 13, 2015 EH Committee Meeting (No Quorum) Minutes

Since a quorum of the members was not present at the meeting on August 13, 2015, no official minutes could be recorded, only a brief summary of discussion.

5. Unfinished Business

- a) Letter to City of Galena Re: Accepting septic system waste at wastewater treatment plant

A copy of the letter from Mark Moran, City of Galena Administrator, was reviewed by Committee members. After speaking with the IEPA (Illinois Environmental Protection Agency), the consensus of city staff is that the additional costs and risks associated with accepting private waste outweighs the benefits. The Galena City Council would make a final decision in the event that the Board of Health wanted to advance the request. The letter also stated that the Dubuque municipal facility was equipped to handle private sewage for dumping.

6. New Business

- a) Discussion and possible action to approve a revision to the Jo Daviess County private sewage ordinance regarding land application

Ron Lubcke invited discussion from the Committee members after reading the Mission Statement of the Jo Daviess County Health Department.

Ron pointed out that this is a potential public health issue and that the existing code must be clarified. Rules and regulations must be followed.

Jim Vormezeele took time to visit the site in question. He saw no visible signs of dumping or detected odors. He expressed no current concerns but questioned winter applications to frozen ground.

Bill Bingham spoke to the difference between treated city septage and private untreated septage. Both can be land applied if specific measures are taken. Land application has a purpose environmentally if rules and regulations are followed.

Dr. Ralph Losey noted that historically, in civilized areas, living quarters are separate from raw sewage. He believes that the issue is a matter of public health.

Kim Barrett also visited the site but saw no visible sewage. The matter is concerning but she would like more information on the process.

Ron again expressed that the Standard of Practice should be followed.

Bill Bingham noted that any decision or course of action recommended by the Environmental Health Committee would be presented to the full Board of Health and then to the Jo Daviess County Board.

7. Citizens' Comments

Richard Porter stated that more stringent rules or forced municipal facility dumping would put an extra burden on his client, since he is currently following all rules and regulations. The IEPA is open for complaints seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Mr. Porter does not believe that this is a nuisance or has any impact on groundwater.

Jeanne Norman concluded her statement by saying that there is a big difference between human and agricultural waste.

Sue Einsweiler brought up the fact that the issue was first brought to the attention of the EH Committee in April. Now it is September. What has been done and if it is a problem, why can't it be fixed?

Matt Calvert stated that since April, ph testing and disking of sewage into the ground has been initiated.

Ron closed citizen comments.

Bill Bingham stated that the goal is to implement reasonable changes and develop a draft resolution for consideration at the next meeting.

8. Establish future meeting dates

The next meeting will be scheduled at a later date.

9. Adjourn

With no other business to discuss, Dr. Losey motioned to adjourn, second by Jim Vormezele. All in favor, motion passed. Ron Lubcke adjourned the meeting at 5:30 PM.