

Industrial/Commercial Group

April 18, 2005 at Marathon Coach

Present: Judy Volta; Frank Wright; Dennis Boeger; Mike Warner; Gordon Kurtz; Thomas Mendes; Denise Kalakay, Audrey Eldridge

This Committee identified other potentially interested parties who should be involved or at least notified of upcoming meetings:

- Weyerhaeuser – Ernie Kesler
- Moanco
- Aline roofing
- Pioneer Estates
- KOA Kampground
- Premier RV
- Shadow Hills Country Club
- Marys Hill Golf Course (not sure they are ‘in’)
- Trysting Tree Golf Course (not sure they are ‘in’)
- Diamond Woods Gold Course
- Green & White Rock Crusher
- Morse Brothers
- Wildish
- Egge
- City Parks in Corvallis, Monroe, Junction City, Harrisburg & Coburg
- County Parks in Linn, Lane & Benton
- Pacific Detroit Diesel
- Member of DEQ Wastewater Reuse Committee

On-site Systems

The Committee discussed what makes an on-site system fail, and what can be done when a system fails. It was noted that redesign of an on-site system can be costly, and that connecting to a sewer system may be a preferred option – if there is an available system.

The Committee also discussed the expected difference in concentration of nitrate in the effluent of a large on-site system for a commercial entity, as compared with the average household. The waste directed to the commercial on-site system is primarily from lunchrooms and restrooms. When compared to residential effluent, which generally includes shower and laundry wastewater that can dilute the nitrate concentration, these larger systems have greater nitrate strength. Therefore, it is likely that the large on-site systems for commercial facilities will be more complex. Most facilities with large on-site systems also have their own public water system, and these could potentially be impacted by the on-site system effluent.

At these large on-site systems, it may also be difficult to get the discharge to less than 7 mg/L nitrate. The standard DEQ permit level for nitrate is 10 mg/L. A discussion was held on the possibility of proposing a change to the Tax Credit rules, to allow large on-site permittees to apply for these credits when that permittee is doing more than required by the permit.

Because of the geology and groundwater conditions, it was noted that for the large on-site systems in Coburg, a public wastewater treatment system would be the preferred alternative to redesigning the existing systems. Ultimately, this long-term strategy for Coburg would be more protective of the groundwater. However, this should not deter the examination of potential future tax credits for large on-site systems in other areas of the GWMA.

Eugene Biosolids

The City of Eugene uses the wastewater treatment plant biosolids and lagoon effluent as fertilizer. Reportedly, there is an extremely high demand for this material.

The City conducts monitoring, including groundwater monitoring, of their facilities. Lately, they have noticed some groundwater trends. These occur mostly at the property boundaries. These changes were noted downgradient and crossgradient of the facility, and adjacent to a field planted with mint.

There was a high die-off of the City's poplar tree plantation this year. This was due to the fact that the biosolid pumps were not working and the trees did not get enough moisture.

The City of Eugene can evaluate GWMA as element of concern in their Environmental Monitoring System.

Fertilizer

There was general recognition that the Cities and Counties in the GWMA should re-evaluate their fertilizer practices, and determine if there are approaches they can take to reduce nitrate loading to the groundwater.

The use of fertilizers on golf courses are another area that the Committee thought should be explored.

Outreach

The Committee thought that it would be important to have an education piece as part of the outreach for future Industrial/Commercial members. It was recommended that this education piece be used by all GWMA Subcommittees. Audrey Eldridge will work on developing this document, with help from other Committee members and staff.

Committee Recommendations

- We should continue with a thorough identification of all potentially affected parties
- There is a need to develop an effective approach to get involvement from other facilities (i.e., gravel pit operators)
- The use of voluntary measures should be emphasized
- Ultimately, the Cities and the Counties may have the ability to encourage change to protect the groundwater
- Two potential practices were suggested for inclusion into the Action Plan:
 - using effluent from on-site systems as fertilizer by applying it subsurface with a drip system; and
 - the use of poplar trees to remove nitrate from wastewater or groundwater.