

Minutes

Wastewater Advisory Council (WAC)

The Wastewater Advisory Council (WAC) met on May 17, 2017, in the 4th floor conference room of the Atrium located at 805 South Wheatley Street, Ridgeland, MS, 39157 at 1:00pm.

Members present:

Dennis Truax	Grady Tucker	Steven Melton	Harry Gong	Mike Freiman
Tina Nations	Charles Shilling	Randy Turnage	Kim Caviness	Edmund Shields
Butch Graves	Charles Brown			

Alternates present:

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MSDH staff:

Duncan Welch	Cole Montgomery	Anne Hogue	Kevin Traylor	Cassandra Walter
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Guests present:

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The meeting was called to order by Dr. Dennis Truax

- Old Business
 - The Division advised the Council that changes to regulations that the body agreed to where passed by the State Board of Health
 - The Division presented modified version of enforcement spreadsheet to show enforcement actions that were agreed to by the enforced upon party.
 - The Division advised the Council that Panola County responded to the Department's public records request for sites evaluated by Panola County without during the time frame of the Division's concern.
- Staff Comments
 - The Division currently has three Program Specialists with no plans to re-hire an additional specialist for the time being
 - The Division advised the Council that the Division's budget is being cut for Fiscal Year 2018. The Division further advised that it would continue to meet all applicable statutory requirements.

- New Business
 - Additional fee changes that were to be presented to the State Board of Health were presented. No vote taken, no opposition voiced.
 - The Council discussed wastewater system repair versus replacement. The Council agreed to a subcommittee consisting of Mike Freiman (Chair), Grady Tucker, Steve Melton, Edmund Shields, and Duncan Welch. The subcommittee is to present a report of its finding at the next advisory council meeting.
 - The Council next discussed the Division's subdivision feasibility review procedures. The Division requested the Council's position regarding lots that, in the Division's view, would not support on-site wastewater disposal in proposed subdivisions that the Division found to be feasible to support on-site wastewater disposal on the whole. After much discussion, the Council agreed that the Division may exclude specific lots in the feasibility determination process, should they be found to not support on-site wastewater disposal in the review process.
 - The Council then discussed the length of licenses for individuals certified by the Division (such as Certified Installers, Certified Pumpers, and Certified Manufacturers). The Division stated that it had no objection to licenses being issued for longer than a single year, but was concerned that may conflict with existing law.
 - In consulting relevant statute after meeting adjournment, the Division advised the Council that current law would preclude them from changing the current length of licensure.
 - Finally, the Council discussed potential privatization of site evaluations for on-site wastewater treatment and disposal. The Division agreed to research the topic, including potential costs and procedures from surrounding states, and present a report of its findings at the next Council meeting.
- Schedule next meeting
 - Meeting Scheduled for August 16, 2017
- Adjournment

Signature (Chairman/Vice-Chairman)

Date