Water/Wastewater Study Commission

Minutes

1. DATE: January 13, 2021. Meeting called to order 6:29PM.
2. MEMBERS PRESENT: Meg Gonzalez, Paul Hallock, Matt Siano, Chris Wallace, Suzanne Welch
3. MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:
4. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT: Stan Mack
5. EX-OFFICIO MEMBER NOT PRESENT:
6. PUBLIC PRESENT:
7. GUEST SPEAKER(s) PRESENT: Mark Johnson
8. AGENDA APPROVED
   1. Motion: Matt
   2. Seconded: Paul
   3. Vote: Unanimous to Approve
9. 12-16-20 MINUTES APPROVED
   1. Motion: Chris
   2. Seconded: Paul
   3. Discussion: Amendments offered
   4. Edits: See revised 12-16-20 Minutes attached
   5. Vote: Unanimous, with amendment
10. ACTION ITEM REVIEW
    1. January *The Grafton News* article – DONE
    2. Paul: review completed septic surveys and fill in “don’t know” responses based on local knowledge – DONE
    3. December 1, 2020 deadline to receive completed surveys from participants – DONE; 90% return rate
    4. Review River Corridor explanation in Town Plan – PENDING
    5. Investigate Basin 11 referencing Grafton in plan – IN PROCESS. DEC Basin Planner, Maria Caduto agreed to include Grafton in Basin Plan update. She has not begun to write. Follow-up required.
    6. Invitation to Linette to speak further on funding - PENDING
11. Report from Mark Johnson re Data Collection and Completed Surveys
    1. Mark analyzed and compiled water survey data. He set up a database connecting completed survey form to the data entry forms.
    2. Key Points (Mark’s presentation attached)
       1. High priority properties captured by survey returns; ~90% return rate very good for residential/commercial wastewater surveys such as this one.
       2. Additional research could be done to identify age of septics
          1. Life-span 15-40 years
          2. Help property owners understand how old their systems are and the risks
       3. Only 2 severe failures were reported
       4. Data on # of Bedrooms and Bathrooms will be helpful in calculating flow and may save time/$ for engineers, if a planning study is decided upon
       5. Capacity limitation was not reported as a concern. Wondering why this is the case.
       6. Need for community education regarding risks.
12. Summary of Commissioners’ “where we are and where we are going” discussion
    1. Three broad issues were raised:
       1. Additional research on “unknowns” and “don’t knows”
       2. Appropriate storage location for WWWSC records and database
       3. Plans for educational outreach to community
    2. Commissioners generally enthused about progress to date and very grateful for Mark’s assistance!
    3. Deeper dive on data required to fill in blanks and verify data on meaning of “Grafton residence”, especially for Part-Time residents – how does length of time in Grafton and/or short-term rentals of Part-Time residents affect wastewater requirements?
    4. Educational outreach should define risk and communicate how to evaluate vulnerability
    5. Behoove us to get information out to new residents
    6. We’ve come a long way, and we’ve go to go a bit farther!
13. OTHER BUSINESS
    1. Chris will write article for February *The Grafton News*
    2. Suz wll draft a plan for Commissioners review on path forward
14. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 6:39-7:30PM
15. ADJOURN
    1. Motion Matt
    2. Seconded Chris
    3. Vote Unanimous
    4. TIME: 7:29PM