

Meeting Notes

Partnership for the Saginaw Bay Watershed Beach Closings Task Group Meeting

Partnership for the Saginaw Bay Watershed Board Members are:

Kyle Bostwick- Director **Zygmunt Dworzecki** - Director **Pete Frauson**- Treasurer
Jim Hergot- Director **Taylor Hollis** – Director **David Karpovich**– Director
Elan Lipschitz - Director **Laura Ogar**-Vice-Chair **Glenn Rowley** - Director
Bill Wright – Chair **Dennis Zimmerman** - Secretary

November 7, 2016 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Bay County Building - 3rd Floor Personnel Conference Room
515 Center Street Bay City, Michigan

Summary of Meeting's Action items:

- *Fifth meeting of the Task Group for Beach Closings/BUI Review.* VC/Ogar convened the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

Team Members present included: **Dworzecki, Frauson, Hollis, Ogar, Rowley, Sivy, Strasz,** and **Zimmerman.** **Wright** was a call-in.

Also attending were: **Michael Duranczyk, Bay County Commissioner;** and **Jo Ellen Strieter,** Administrative Contractor.

Zimmerman made a motion to approve meeting notes. **Dworzecki** seconded. All were in favor of accepting minutes.

Old Business – Action Item - **Dworzecki** reminded us that **Goodwin** with the DEQ was going to supply us with other similar communities and what they have done, specifically with their beach closing BUI. We will need to follow up with him to get this information.

Ogar opened with a group discussion on Beach Closing BUI Assessment of known contributors previously identified in the RAP's including leaking septic fields, land applications of sewage solids, manure stockpiling and municipal waste water treatment plants (work in progress table attached). Question came up, are drains a source or a location? Samplings of drains could maybe tell us if or where leaking septic systems are a potential source. We would need to find out what water quality data is available on local drains and if bacteriological sampling has been done even on one drain. Discussion continued on information provided by **Strasz** that Michigan is one of 2 states out of the 50 United States that does not have a State Wide Sanitary Code.

Strasz presented on:

Elements of Sanitary Codes

Bay	Statewide/based upon last draft
Provides Local Health Department (LHD) for regulatory oversight and enforcement	Provides for LHD for regulatory oversight and enforcement
Mandate inspection based upon risk/age	Mandated inspections every 10 years

P-O-S inspection	P-O-S inspection waived inside 5 years
Provided for LHD to annually update regulatory requirement for septic systems.	Provides for statewide panel to improve local may adopt stricter standards
May provide for private inspection	Provide for private inspection with rep
Inspection waived inside 5 years	Fees establish inspection and reporting
Saginaw Bay Restoration Fund(?)	Adopted through State Legislation
Fees established for inspection and reporting	Supersedes some regulatory standard for LHD

Challenges or Opportunities

- NPS Grant as foundation
- May be identified as a pilot
- Political push back – fees/taxes and preemption
- Realtors vs. Farm Bureau vs. homeowners
- Dual track legislation (State vs. Local)
- Change of Political Climate

Data Base feature

- It is estimated that there are between 11,000 and 17,000 septic systems in Bay County
- Bay County Health Department has documents for, and has scanned approximately 15,795 properties.
- Bay County has 2 Data Bases. Fetch GIS and Health Space. Everything is not on GIS. 5 years ago Bay County Health Department purchased Health Space. It was state if art IBM/LOTUS. LOTUS is no longer supported software. Currently looking at better alternatives.

Discussion proceeded on solutions for homeowners that have a failing septic system. There is a need to identify potential funding sources to help these homeowners. We have the Revolving Septic Loan Fund. If we a sizeable number of failing systems in a particular area that is when we might need to push for Sanitary Sewer. There is no sense replacing Septic Systems in area that are destined to fail. These loans need to be paid back.

Action Item - DEQ Inventory – need to convey to John Riley the need for a DEQ Inventory Report that lists public waste water treatment facilities and any other water quality data on drains. We will also need to identify with a map of the locations of the drains that discharge into the river and the bay.

Action Item – **Strieter** to provide calendar for meeting dates for 2017 for the December Meeting.
Action Item – **Frauson** will send to the group an electronic form for reporting volunteer time.

Adjourn – 11:55 am moved by **Zimmerman** and supported by **Rowley**.

Respectfully submitted, Jo Ellen Strieter, Administrative Contractor

