

Meeting Scope: To provide updates on decentralized sewage system matters and to vet proposed revisions to the Department's Technical Standards for Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems.

Members/Attendees: Those in attendance are **bolded**.

- CT Department of Public Health (DPH)
  - **Matt Pawlik**, Environmental Engineering Program Supervisor
  - **Amanda Clark**, Environmental Analyst 3
  - **Sean Merrigan**, Environmental Engineer 3
  - **Mary Pizzuto**, Environmental Engineer Trainee
- CT Association of Directors of Health (CADH)
  - **Sonia Marino**, DOH Guilford
    - No update.
  - Dave Knauf, DOH Darien
- CT Association of Water Pollution Control Authorities (CAWPCAs)
  - Tom Sgroi, Vice President, Jeff Lemay, Member
- CT Environmental Health Association (CEHA)
  - **Jeff Polhemus**, Chairman
    - Update: Yankee Conference in September, subsurface group met last week, soils training for end of October more info to come.
  - Danielle Holmes, Co Chairman
- CT Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (COWRA)
  - Frank Talarico, President, Bill Hall, Member, Charlie Dutch, Member
- CT Water Well Association (CWWA)
  - **Paul Hurlbut**, President
    - Update: Licensed by Dept. of Labor, etc. to be J2 training provider.
  - Jeremiah Weid, Vice President, Frank Lineberry, Secretary
- Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)
  - **Lauren Jones**, Supervising Environmental Engineer
    - No update.
  - Antoanela Daha, Environmental Engineer 3, Jen Perry, Bureau Chief
- Home Builders and Remodelers Association of CT (HBRA)
  - **Jim Perras**, President
    - No other update.
  - David Litchfield, Member
- Professional Engineers
  - **Roger Nemergut**, PE
    - No update.
  - Larry Marcik, PE, Doug Divesta, PE
- Soil Scientists
  - **Rick Zulick**, Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England
    - No update.
- Visitors:
  - Robert Fusari & Bob Wiedenmann, HBRA
  - James Huck, CTWEA
  - David Potts, Geomatrix

**Home Builders Proposed Revisions and Member Survey Responses:** Need responses from all CAC members. Receipt of responses has been slow. Responses are critical to ensure all concerns have been addressed prior to a formal response from DPH.

- *We are creating a more unified protocol for new proposed items. This procedure requires representatives to compile feedback from member organizations.*
  - *Second step: get broader feedback from other groups i.e.: wetlands, zoning, Rivers Alliance, Save the Sound, councils of government, etc.*
- **Bedroom Occupancy Reduction for Multi-family Dwelling Units:** Consideration for an occupancy reduction when multiple bedrooms are present within a single apartment / condominium unit.
  - *No individual meters for individual units.*
  - *Averages can be better used in apartment complexes than single-family buildings because even if one unit has high flows, they are likely to average out with those that have lower flows.*
  - *Data may say that an apartment is less likely to have full occupancy in all bedrooms, but how do we account for multi-family buildings where double occupancy of each bedroom is likely. University and casino areas for example.*
  - *Suggestion to collect data from affordable housing where each unit has its own septic system.*
  - *Suggestion to reduce design flows based on a percentage across the board (not just for multi-family buildings) based on how water conservation has reduced design flows.*
  - *Point that reductions have already been made over the past many years, systems have been getting smaller. Also, low flow fixtures have reduced the volume of water used, but the strength of wastewater remains and is less diluted.*
  - *Smaller systems allow more concentrated development in sensitive areas i.e., on the coast. PHC does not require nitrogen assessments.*
  - *Discussion of the impact that Low Pressure Distributions may have.*
  - *Idea to compare our design flow standards to those used in other states (RI, MA, etc.).*
  - *DEEP has allowed reductions with meter readings only for age restricted housing, not regular apartments.*
  - *Training needed for existing local health department staff.*
  - *Discussion of ELA formula: other states don't use an interface factor.*
  - *Acknowledgement that we are in a conservative place right now, we should be cautious to that we don't make too many changes at once.*
- **Call for comments:** DPH will be seeking member feedback regarding a wider distribution of the proposed Technical Standards changes for comments. This wider call for comments will come from DPH and include a summary of all the proposed changes DPH is considering.
  - *Members are to send lists of potential non-member contacts to Amanda Clark. DPH will be creating a comment path for outside organizations using Microsoft forms.*
- **Legislative Items:** SB 998 - AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TAX ABATEMENT FOR CERTAIN CONSERVATION EASEMENTS AND ADDRESSING HOUSING AFFORDABILITY FOR RESIDENTS IN THE STATE (Section 27). Increases DPH sewage disposal system jurisdiction threshold from 7500 gallons per day (gpd) to 10,000 gpd. The Bill also includes the transfer of community sewage disposal systems from DEEP jurisdiction to DPH jurisdiction.
  - *DEEP is mapping a path to transfer jurisdiction to DPH.*
  - *The fiscal note attached to the bill was to transferred funding from DEEP to DPH for 2 positions. DEEP opposed the funding transfer.*
  - *Discussion of how systems will transition from DEEP to DPH. DPH may need to create minimum standards separate from B103.*
  - *Idea to add training specifically on larger/community systems.*

- **DPH Intern Project and Draft Brief:** Properties located within the 100-year FEMA flood zone shall be at least 30 inches above maximum groundwater and leaching systems on properties located within the 500-year FEMA flood zone shall be at least 24 inches above maximum groundwater. Final draft will be submitted for comments in a few months.
  - *What will the impact be on coastal and inland water tables from sea-level rise? Answer: Overwhelmingly, groundwater and sea-level will rise in concert.*
  - *Amanda Clark presented and included preliminary findings from a policy brief that is currently being drafted. The cited policy brief draws conclusions and adaptation actions from a 57 document compendium of literature.*
  - *Climate planning needs to be integrated into current state regulations for septic systems.*
  - *Member point raised: reconsider the requirement of natural soils. Systems in fill may be more vulnerable to flood damage than those in natural soil.*
  - *Soil scientist perspective: groundwater rise in coastal communities with sandy soils may be different than at other elevations receiving heavy rains with till, etc.*
  - *Discussion of how this relates to community systems.*
- **Additional CAC Member Comments**
  - *HBRA: What other than gallons per day are changes that could be considered in the short term?*
    - *Interface factors. HBRA asked what they can provide to assist. Data concerning the leaching system crediting increase that will occur from changing the interface factor was requested. What products will receive a credit bump and to what extent. HBRA agreed to provide the information.*
    - *Occupancy data may be difficult to find for multi-family individual units.*
- **Visitor Comments**
  - *Made throughout the meeting.*
- **Executive Session:** Trade Secrets submittal – New leaching product design submitted by Infiltrator Water Technologies.