

**WPP STAKEHOLDER MAKEUP MEETING MINUTES**  
**NOVEMBER 10, 2015**

**ATTENDEES:**

- ❖ Spencer Dumont, Ron Gunter, Todd Running, Mark Webb
  
- ❖ Randy Acreman, Sina Arjmand, Michael Bleier, Melissa Lanclos, Meagan Lee, Rhonda Mona, Gary Montgomery, Davies Mtundu, David Parkhill, Bret Raley, Shane Simpson, Ronda Trow

**AGENDA:**

- ❖ Welcome and Introduction
- ❖ OSSF Order Amendment
- ❖ Public Education Activities
- ❖ Water Quality
- ❖ Other New Business

**OPENING:**

- ❖ Bret Raley opens with announcement of OSSF Order approved on 11/9/2015 by TCEQ
- ❖ Mark Webb introduces Spencer Dumont
- ❖ SJRA staff introductions

**PRESENTATIONS:**

- ❖ Sina Arjmand presents power point on Storm Water Inlet Marking (SwIM)

**DISCUSSION TOPICS:**

- ❖ OSSF enforcement of implementation
- ❖ Public outreach for implementation
- ❖ Conventional Systems vs. Aerobic Systems
- ❖ SwIM inlet markings
- ❖ GRP water consumption vs. evaporation
- ❖ USGS Data

## DISCUSSIONS HELD:

**Bret Raley:** States that the Draft, amended OSSF requires maintenance contracts for aerobic systems. The Order is scheduled to go before the SJRA Board in December and have an effective date of March 1, 2016.

**Michael Bleier:** Questioned what the effective date of March 1<sup>st</sup> would involve as far as compliance requirements.

**Bret Raley:** We plan to have a “soft enforcement” with articles and presentations to large neighborhoods to get the word out.

**David Parkhill:** March 1st you will be required to have a maintenance contract and people should be in compliance by that date. We will be starting an “encouragement plan”. Constable citations will not come into play until somewhere around three to six months after the program begins. However, there will be multiple attempts to reach out to everyone prior.

**Ronda Trow:** We will do a lot of public education and outreach.

**Michael Bleier:** Large neighborhoods would easy to reach, but how will the people in very rural areas be reached?

**Bret Raley:** Responded that we have a database that contains the majority of these customers and we will be able to reach out through direct mail.

**Gary Montgomery:** Asked if this is an annual program.

**David Parkhill:** Responded that it is an annual contract however it requires an inspection every four months.

**Ron Gunter:** Questioned if this order is strictly for aerobic systems or does it apply to field lines?

**Bret Raley:** Responded the program does not apply to field lines.

**David Parkhill:** We do realize these standard systems can fail.

**Bret Raley:** Explained that the new program will allow more opportunity for SJRA to conduct inspections and to be more involved in preventing violations.

**David Parkhill:** Our goal is to also have more inspections on standard systems as well.

**Ronda Trow:** This program does fall in line with the WPP Plan and the purpose and value of why we are requiring this. Describes how PR will work to get the word out.

**Michael Bleier:** Inquired as to when we plan on getting with the maintenance contractors to let them know of the order so they can begin getting the word out.

**David Parkhill:** Explained we are planning several meetings with the maintenance contractors in the near future.

**Michael Bleier:** Inquired if there is going to be an SJRA fee applied to this?

**David Parkhill:** The plan for now is not have a fee, however the order does allow for it. Describes how Walker County’s program charges.

**Gary Montgomery:** Asked when the public hearing would be.

**David Parkhill:** The December board meeting will be considered a public meeting.

**Ronda Trow:** Questioned the PR approach of fees in the future.

**David Parkhill:** Explained the maintenance contract cost to the homeowners that already will be associated with the maintenance of their system.

**Bret Raley:** Explained that, at some point in the future, our program might grow to the point of annual inspections of every system. If that were ever to occur, we might need a fee to help pay for those services.

**David Parkhill:** Describes how the state already requires a two year contract upon initial installation of a system and many people continue to have these contracts past the initial two year duration.

**Michael Bleier:** Recommends reaching out to other agencies that have already implemented this program.

**Bret Raley:** Explains how most everyone around our area outside of the 2075' already require maintenance contracts.

**Michael Bleier:** Made the suggestion that we remind customers with conventional systems that they need to have their tanks pumped out at recommended times to avoid damaging their systems and potentially having to replace them with aerobics.

**Randy Acreman:** Stated a lot of conventional systems have already been replaced with aerobic systems due to failure.

**Gary Montgomery:** Discussed the theory of a conventional system vs. aerobic system and the effect each have on the reservoir. Questioned if the reason conventional systems are not included in the order is because they are less of a threat?

**David Parkhill:** Not necessary, they are not included because they do not have equipment that needs maintaining. However our inspection would be to make sure the tanks are pumped out and the field is clear.

**Todd Running:** Describes how even conventional systems that are underground do still pose a threat because if they are failing then the water is coming to the surface and ponding then running into the ditch and then to the lake.

**Randy Acreman:** We occasionally receive reports for this type of failing systems from neighbors.

**Shane Simpson:** We will be doing random inspections of these when we are out doing audits of the maintenance providers.

**Ron Gunter:** Questioned the difference from those who are within the 2075' area that SJRA controls and those who are not.

**Bret Raley:** Explained those outside of the 2075' already are required to have maintenance contracts by Montgomery County.

**Gary Montgomery:** Questioned how many permits SJRA currently has permitted.

**Randy Acreman:** Replied with approximately 2100 total OSSF which 1500-1600 are aerobic.

**Shane Simpson:** There are 48 WWTP's within the watershed.

**David Parkhill:** Held discussion on how some OSSF's are in the county that should be SJRA's and vice versa but the county and SJRA work together with these, and only one authorized agent governs each system.

**David Parkhill:** Discussion regarding lift stations and storm water runoff, and explains ideas to launch the Swim program.

**Todd Running:** Stated they started stenciling their storm water drains and the downside is they start fading in a year.

**David Parkhill:** Discussion on education of this program.

**Gary Montgomery:** Asks if there is already an education program out there? David replies yes there are some groups and web site material.

**Zina Arjmand:** Discussion on the differences of stenciling, permanent markers and painted logos for marking the inlets.

**Ronda Trow:** We will need to get with the HOA and POA's of subdivisions and do what they will allow for their subdivision.

**Gary Montgomery:** HOA's and water utilities will often include information in the water bills.

**Michael Bleier:** Suggests artwork because that draws in the youth.

**Mark Webb:** Questioned possibility of putting up road signs regarding entrance into the watershed area.

**Todd Running:** Stated DOT is not allowing these type signs unless it is a county road.

**Ron Gunter:** Asked if there is any new data either daily, weekly, or monthly on how much water the GRP is using.

**David Parkhill:** Explained we are working on being able to provide this data on a monthly basis.

**Michael Bleier:** Made suggestions on how the data should be presented.

**Bret Raley:** One of the biggest struggles we have is gaining confidence in the community regarding water levels. We still receive calls from citizens that insist we are releasing water in the dead of the night.

**Gary Montgomery:** Questioned if all of the GRP participants have come online with GRP.

**Ronda Trow:** Replied no.

**Michael Bleier:** Stated we need more awareness that the GRP is only pulling one inch a month and that this is far less than evaporative losses.

**Bret Raley:** Gave examples of evaporation and lake levels vs. GRP usage of late

**Gary Montgomery:** Asked about serious violations from WTP's and lift stations and if there are any proactive positions being taken? Also, questioned regionalization.

**David Parkhill:** We have identified that we are in favor of supporting regionalization and taking an active role to help communities evaluate regional opportunities.

**Gary Montgomery:** Would like to encourage TCEQ to do more inspections.

**Bret Raley:** Would like to do a pilot constructed wetlands to serve as tertiary treatment of WWTP effluent. Explained that we have some surplus SJRA property that seems ideal for this.

**Gary Montgomery:** Suggested possibly an organization around the lake partnering with TCEQ to help with these systems.

**David Parkhill:** Explained that the USGS has 50 years of water quality data, some of which is not sampled for in SJRA sampling program.

**Bret Raley:** We have a meeting scheduled with USGS in a few days to discuss some additional services they may have to offer in terms of water quality monitoring.

**Michael Bleier:** Asks to support the River Authority's position that WWTP are not modifying water chemistry near the dam.

**David Parkhill:** USGS has two or three locations along the dam that are taking samples three times a year.

**David Parkhill:** We are also interested in the USGS data on algae growth.