

June 23, 2005
Ground Water Protection Study Group
Notes from Meeting

Commissioner Kolbe opened the meeting with a welcome. The following people attended the meeting: Commissioner Bob Kolbe, Derrick Iles, Bob Kappel, Pat Hammond, Scott Buss, Scott Anderson, Mike Struck, and Phil Kappen.

Commissioner Kolbe asked for input and review of the notes from the meeting on May 26, 2005. No changes were suggested.

Bob Kappel gave a report on a chemical spill into Covell Lake that occurred May 25th. The herbicide Prowl was spill from a semi-truck into the drainage way leading into Covell Lake. The herbicide was contained. Extensive clean-up was required to eliminate the herbicide from the water.

Phil Kappen, Minnehaha County Planning, gave an explanation on two proposed ordinance amendments. The first introduce requiring finder wire. Finder wire is placed across the top of the tank, around access holes and in the absorption field. Kappen explained the type of connectors needed and type of insulated copper wire that is used. Finder wire would be required for all new wastewater system installations and replacements. Once the tracer or finder wire is installed, the system can be accurately located. He indicated that the additional material required for installation will cost approximately \$10.00 to \$12.00, with labor \$50.00 per system. Discussion followed. The group suggested some minor changes. Kappen agreed to rework the amendment addressing the changes and bring back a revised amendment.

Kappen next discussed an ordinance amendment that addressed the installation of floor drains in residences. He indicated that he has been in contact with the state plumbing commission and that they are very interested in this proposed amendment. The study group suggested making the proposed revision more encompassing. Other fluids in addition to fluids from vehicles should be included. The group suggested addressing corrosive controls and pumping requirements for these types of holding tanks. Furthermore, it was recommended that provisions be added requiring the owner to keep pumping records for these types of holding tanks. Discussion then focused on home occupations. The group suggested making sure that, when the County approves home occupations that may have use or produce substances that could potentially damage ground water resources, conditions of approval address the disposal of this waste. Kappen suggested re-working this amendment to address the suggestions and concerns of the group.

Kolbe suggested drafting another amendment requiring dry sewer connection on new residences in the area which someday may be hooked up to a central sewer system. Anderson indicated that this is something that he saw used by the City of Rapid City. He

would research this for the group and possibly put together some draft wording for review.

Kolbe then asked if the location of new wastewater systems could be placed on the County's GIS system. Anderson indicated that he did think that this would be possible, but that when the system is being inspected the location could be GPS'ed and that information could be stored.

Anderson reported on public information opportunities. Anderson indicated that he had discussed possible ways of public education. Discussions have been held with Minnehaha Community Water and the Director of Equalization's Office about including a message on items mailed out throughout the year. Scott Buss also indicated that Minnehaha Community Water has a newsletter that could also be used for providing information to their customers. It was suggested that local utility companies also be contacted. Commissioner Kolbe also felt that once information about septic systems is placed on the web, a news release or story could be provided to the Tri-State neighbor and Green Sheets in Aberdeen, as these periodicals are more likely to reach rural residents that use septic systems. Placement of a booth at the Sioux Empire Fair and Home Builders show was also suggest as a way of informing the public. Anderson indicated that more work will continue on public education.

Anderson indicated that he has been in contact with representatives of NAWE, North American Wetland Engineering. NAWE has expressed interest in giving a short presentation on cultured wetlands for waste removal. These systems are often used for small developments. The Study Group concurred that a presentation would be beneficial. Anderson asked the Study Group if they would like to see if NAWE can make a presentation at the next meeting, July 28, 2005. The group thought it seemed appropriate and requested that invitations also be sent out to other interested parties, such as GFP, East Dakota Water District, SECOG and major developers in the area. Anderson indicated that the Planning Department could prepare a flyer to be sent out.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at approximately 11:15.