

Environmental Health Liaison Meeting
June 12, 2007
Minutes

Present: David Hourdequin, Paul Higdon, Dr. Jim Davis, Ron Winecoff,
Barry Patterson, Ken Ring, and Sue Blaine

Excused: Dr. Ron Campbell

Guest: Bill McGaha

The Environmental Health Liaison Meeting was opened by Mr. David Hourdequin at 5:34 p.m.

Minutes from the May 08, 2007 were approved unanimously on a motion from Mr. Paul Higdon and a second from Dr. Jim Davis.

1) OSWW Applications Summary Report - Mr. Barry Patterson reported that the Backlog is now down to 145. Discussion was held on Fast Tract methods. A motion was made by Dr. Jim Davis and seconded by Mr. Paul Higdon, and passed unanimously to document specific problems encountered with Fast Track, and to make an appointment with our Legal Counsel to ascertain if we are within guidelines of reporting problems. Currently there is one full time staff person working Fast Track applications. This may have to increase to two staff members as Fast Track is projected to 40-50 per month for the rest of the year.

2) State Monthly OSWW Summary Report - Discussion was held on numbers in the report. Mr. Patterson will look at the way the numbers of repairs are being reported.

3) Statistical Comparison From Statewide OSWW Summary Report - Discussion was held on the number of site visits to issue a permit, and the slight increase in visits per month in 2007. Mr. Patterson is researching why trips have increased from 1.5 to 3.5 trips per permit, on average. The state comparison average based on 270,000 visits is 1.4. Macon County is ranked #9 in the state as to the number of applications received. Most higher ranking counties are nearer to the coast. Mr. Patterson talked about the fact that some sites are steep and difficult to negotiate. Most owners and/or realtor want to be present at a site during an inspection, and the EH staff usually call to set up an appointment beforehand.

4) OSWW Staffing - One staff member has submitted his resignation for June and is moving back to his original home. Interviews are on-going for a replacement.

5) Increase in Repairs, Failing Systems and Dry Wells - Mr. Patterson shared that the building boom that was prevalent in the 70's is leading to failing septic systems. Also some wells are going dry due to the drought in our area.

6) Staff Salaries Update - Mr. Ken Ring passed out handouts and reported that he has met with Human Resources concerning authorization/registration pay for EH Specialists. Discussion was held on the number of hours of continuing education required to obtain each level and what is required to maintain the level as well as the combination of site work. Only three or four levels were recommended instead of the five listed. A suggestion was made to invite a former EH Supervisor from Jackson County to the next EHL meeting.

7) Food and Lodging Fees - Mr. Patterson pointed out that we are not compensated enough money to offset the expenses of Food and Lodging.

8) Food and Lodging Workload (Summer, Foodborne Illness, Animal Bites) - Mr. Patterson stated that the summer months are traditionally very busy with extra

duties in food establishments/vendor sites as well as more foodborne illnesses and animal bites.

9) Other - Mr. Bill McGaha was introduced and addressed the committee from the perception of a realtor. He suggested that a scheduling system would be beneficial, and expressed his appreciation for what has been done.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. on motion by Mr. Ron Winecoff and a second by Mr. Paul Higdon. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Blaine