

GULF COUNTY SLUDGE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 11, 2007 MEETING

The Gulf County Sludge Oversight Committee was called to order at 2:03 p.m. Central Time (CT) on October 11, 2007, by Chairwoman Elinor Cunningham. The meeting was held at the courthouse in Wewahitchka, Florida. The following members were in attendance:

Elinor Cunningham
Joe Danford
Preston Gibbs
Bobby Knee
Jim Respress
Tim Stein
Suzanne Stein, secretary

The following members of the public were in attendance:

Dax Williams
Tom Graney
Red Stanton

The minutes from the September 27, 2007, meeting were distributed and approved by consensus.

Chairwoman Cunningham opened the discussion of items under "Old Business." In regards to water samples, Mr. Stein informed the members he had checked with Mike Matthews from DEP and confirmed that water sampling had not been done. In regards to the Consent Order, Chairwoman Cunningham said she had contacted Greg Smith with DEP and confirmed there was an active Draft Consent Order. In regards to motions to BOCC, Chairwoman Cunningham told the members she had submitted the motions to the Commissioners at their regular meeting on October 9, 2007. The Commissioners referred the motions to the county attorney, Tim McFarland, for him to review.

Mr. Dax Williams commented that Brad Hartshorn from DEP had already been out to the site to evaluate where the collection of the water samples could be taken. He said there'd be no problem sampling upstream from the site, but was checking out how to get access for a downstream sample. Mr. Respress expressed concern about the cost of water sampling if done privately. Mr. Williams stated each sample could run from \$200 to \$300, depending on what tests were requested. Mr. Williams also stated there would be no problem in supplying the committee with updates on the monitoring wells.

Mr. Respress expressed his concern about testing of Wetappo Creek for pollutants now for protection of future generations. Mr. Stein stated we need to determine what is in Wetappo Creek now, and if it's okay, then put in protective measures to keep it that way.

Chairwoman Cunningham then opened the discussion of items under "New Business." The Site Tour was held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, October 10, 2007. Chairwoman Cunningham, Tim Stein, Bobby Knee, and Jim Respress took the tour of Wetappo Farms and Gulf County Farms given by Dax and Mallory Williams. Chairwoman Cunningham stated that Mr. Williams was cordial during the tour. Mr. Stein stated he had concerns about a discrepancy of information. During a previous tour he had taken he was told by Mr. Dax Williams the crops were harvested and sold. This tour he was told by Mr. Mallory Williams that the crops were burned. Discussion was about the ash may be what Mr. Gibbs is seeing floating in the air. Mr. Stein was also told that at least two (2) truckloads a day of sludge were dumped at the Gulf County Farms site, but during the tour, he had not seen where anything had been dumped. Mr. Dax Williams said that one load had been dumped early in the morning. He added that if the members wanted to see sludge dumped, a visit would have to be in the morning, not in the afternoon. He also responded to Mr. Stein's concern that no dumping had been done in the back corner (where they did not tour) for quite some time.

Chairwoman Cunningham discussed her e-mail letter to Mr. Greg Smith with D.E.P. She passed out a copy of the e-mail to each member. She also included a summary of a telephone call she had with Mr. Smith. The members discussed each section: water sampling, draft consent order, other consent orders, monitoring wells, and agricultural use plan,

Mr. Tom Graney, from the Beaches Waste/Water Treatment facility explained the process of treating waste to get it ready to haul to a sludge farm. He was very informative for the committee members. There was a lengthy discussion about the whole process from start to finish. He stated the problem with the contract regulations now is that there is a question as to what D.E.P.'s role is if a contract is not followed. He stated that D.E.P. is in the process of ironing out the contracts so that responsibility is more defined. He also informed the group that D.E.P. was in the process of rewriting F.A.C. 62-640, and that the new rulings could be found online. Mr. Dax Williams stated that the new draft of 62-640 will have changes in regulations and procedures, and that he is already trying to implement some of these changes at his sites.

Mr. Gibbs asked why Mr. Williams' no longer brought sludge in from Military Point to his site. His concern was if there was some reason it could no longer be dumped there. Mr. Dax Williams' replied the reason was because Walton County was the lowest bidder. He stated the Williams' continued to do the hauling of sludge from Military Point, but took it to Walton County.

Mr. Gibbs asked if Gulf County Farms was shut down. Mr. Williams replied no. Mr. Gibbs asked why they started Wetappo Farms. Mr. Williams' reply was because additional land was needed.

Discussion continued about the violations sited in the Draft Consent Order.

The members agreed to begin their review of F.A.C. 62-640 at their next meeting.

The next meeting will be Thursday, October 25, 2007, at 2 p.m. CT.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. CT.

Minutes prepared by Suzanne Stein