

MADISON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

September 23, 2020

Minutes

Time of Meeting: 6 pm

Location: ZOOM On-Line Meeting

- 1. Attendance: Present** - Tom Hansen, , Mark Aron, Peter Pastore
Also present – Trent Joseph (Public Health),
- 2. Minutes:** Review of minutes from June 24, 2020. Minutes were approved without comment.
- 3. Citizen's comments:** None
- 4. Health Director's Report:** Trent Joseph gave the following report.
 - Covid 19 related issues are dominating Trent's activities. Many homeowners looking to expand their systems and add capacity.
 - The health department is managing to keep up with permits and inspections. Permit applications are all on line.
 - Two large developments in the works. 4 Boston post road marina/restaurant/offices. Also the Generals Residence project at Liberty and Boston Post Road.
 - Otherwise, few failures or problems with on-site septic.

Hansen asked if the General's Residence project would be considered a community system since there are several systems on one property. Trent referred to the WPCP for the definition of a community system and assumed that it did not meet that definition.

5. Madison Water Pollution Control Plan

- No suggested edits/changes/comments

6. Update from the Madison Resiliency Committee

- No update was provided

7. Draft scope of study for Smith Bay and WWMDs

- Hansen presented a draft RFQ and scope of study to address septic system performance and long term alternatives for the Smith Bay area. This area is known to be problematic due to high groundwater, small lots and periodic flooding. It is also a vulnerable neighborhood being looked at by the resiliency committee. The RFQ would solicit engineering services to develop design flows and criteria for a community sewerage system as called for in the Resiliency Plan by Milone & MacBroom with a target date of 2030.

Pastore asked about the nature and extent of septic system problems in this area and if Trent considered this to be a priority. As of this time, the health department is not hearing complaints from the residents and is not aware of widespread failures. Although it is known that conditions are not good for septic systems.

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Pastore did not support the implementation of such a study because of the costs involved and the property value impacts that might adversely affect homeowner's ability to sell their properties. Trent did not support the study because he could not enumerate specific problems with septic system failures here.

No vote was taken on this initiative.

- Hansen presented a draft RFQ and scope of study to develop a de-centralized wastewater management ordinance and standards for wastewater management districts. A WWMD standard would allow for stricter design criteria in areas of environmental concern and may include nitrogen removal. The RFQ is for an engineering study to identify areas of environmental concern and develop appropriate standards and guidelines for water proximity properties.

Trent discussed his approach with new developments and septic system approvals. He already requires enhanced standards and N renovation on some projects. He is including state-of-the-art technologies and enhancements for new and repaired systems. But he does think that a standardized ordinance would be helpful.

No vote was taken on this initiative.

8. Adjourn: 7:00 PM due to loss of a quorum

The Town of Madison does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and the meeting facilities are ADA accessible. Individuals who need assistance are invited to make their needs known by contacting the Town's ADA/Human Resources Director Debra Milardo at 203.245.5603 or by email to milardod@madisonct.org at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.

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Madison Water Pollution Control Authority

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS Development of a Draft Ordinance and Program Standards for Wastewater Management Districts

Background

The Town of Madison Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) consists of a five-member volunteer board of residents that meets monthly throughout the year to establish policies for, and monitor the progress of, the Town's Sewer Avoidance Program and other water quality programs. The WPCA performs this mission with assistance from Town staff in the Health Department and Town Engineer's Office.

At this time, the WPCA seeks guidance in the development of one or more special wastewater management districts. Even in locations where septic systems perform well and meet minimum standards, the DEEP has identified nitrogen as a pollutant of concern. Septic systems do not routinely remove nitrogen. Other peripheral issues include sea level rise, non-point source pollution of LI Sound and salt marshes. The opportunities and challenges of establishing wastewater management districts will be addressed as part of this project.

Preliminary Scope of Services

Study requirements may include the following items:

1. A review of existing conditions (topography, geology, soils, lot sizes etc.) and identification of environmentally sensitive areas, particularly south of Route 1. Create an inventory of areas of environmental concern that may be impacted by continued use of on-site septic systems.
2. An inventory of existing wastewater disposal practices and assessment of the long-term viability of on-site sewage disposal in environmentally sensitive areas.
3. A review and cost comparison of wastewater management alternatives for these areas. Alternatives to be considered include establishing wastewater management districts that would include more stringent design standards for on-site systems. These standards may include increased groundwater separation, mandatory upgrades, innovative/alternative systems designed to remove nitrogen and other options.
4. Development of a draft decentralized wastewater management district ordinance.
5. Development of draft decentralized wastewater management district standards.
6. Identification of available funding programs applicable to the recommended alternative.
7. Financial analysis of the recommended alternative which may include capital cost, operation and maintenance cost, benefit assessment, impact on mil rate, user charge, and connection cost.
8. Environmental assessment of the recommended alternative.

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9. Conduct a public participation program consisting of several workshops with affected property owners.

Statement of Qualifications

Interested firms are invited to submit a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) for Development of a Draft Ordinance and Program Standards for Wastewater Management Districts. The SOQ should include the following:

1. Size of firm and availability of time to do the study.
2. Organizational structure of the firm.
3. Resume of key personnel that would work on the study.
4. Provide a description of similar projects performed by the firm.
5. List of sub-consultants that may be hired for the study.
6. Client references for similar projects performed by the firm.

Smith Bay Wastewater Management Study
Request for Qualifications

The Town of Madison and the Madison Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) CT is seeking statements of qualifications from professional engineers to study wastewater disposal alternatives in the Smith Bay neighborhood. Smith Bay is the name for the finger roads south of Neck Road from Pleasant View Avenue at the western edge to Shorelands Drive at the eastern edge. These private roads are relatively densely developed and drop to very low elevations near the shoreline. The coast is characterized by alternating bulkheads and beaches. **MAP**

This area consists predominately of seasonal beach homes (some converted to year-round residences) built on small lots. Most of the older homes have septic systems that do not meet State Health Code criteria. Repairing or replacing these systems is difficult and costly because of lot size and code requirements.

Madison's Water Pollution Control Plan (WPCP) relies on individual on-site septic systems. The Smith Bay neighborhood has been identified as a vulnerable neighborhood by the WPCA, the Town of Madison Health Department and in the 2016 Coastal Resilience Plan by Milone and MacBroom. All coastal properties in Madison have septic systems that are vulnerable to sea level rise and coastal hazards. The Resilience Plan calls for implementation of a community wastewater system for Smith Bay by the year 2030 in response to this threat.

Study requirements may include the following items:

- A review of existing conditions (topography, geology, soils, lot sizes).
- An inventory of existing wastewater disposal systems.
- Delineation of the area(s) to be serviced by a community system.
- Development of design flows for the Smith Bay study area.
- Identification of potential wastewater disposal sites including public and private properties. It is unlikely that a community system can be located in the Smith Bay neighborhood. Consequently, the study will need to identify and evaluate potential disposal sites outside of the immediate area.
- * Development of wastewater collection and treatment management technologies including low pressure sewer systems, STEP systems, nitrogen reduction and alternative treatment systems
- * Identification of available funding programs applicable to the recommended alternative.
- * Financial analysis of the recommended alternative which may include capital cost, operation and maintenance cost, benefit assessment, impact on mil rate, user charge, and connection cost.
- * Environmental assessment of the recommended alternative.
- * Conduct a public participation program consisting of several workshops with affected property owners.

Statement of Qualifications

Interested firms are invited to submit a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) for the Smith Bay Wastewater Management Study. The SOQ should include the following:

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1. Size of firm and availability of time to do the study.
2. Organizational structure of the firm.
3. Resume of key personnel that would work on the study.
4. Provide a description of similar projects performed by the firm.
5. List of sub-consultants that may be hired for the study.
6. Client references for similar projects performed by the firm.