

Department of Health
Bureau of Onsite Sewage Programs
Research Review and Advisory Committee

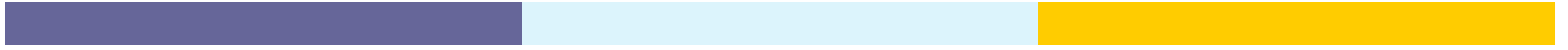
Wednesday July 1, 2009

10 am - 3 pm



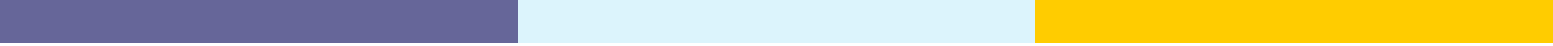
Agenda:

1. Introductions and Housekeeping
2. Review Minutes of Meetings on May 27 & 28, 2009
3. Discussion on the Florida Nitrogen Reduction Strategies Study
4. Brief Updates on Ongoing and Future Projects
5. Other Business
6. Public Comment
7. Closing Comments, Next Meeting, and Adjournment



Introductions & Housekeeping

- Travel forms
- Roll call
- Identification of audience



Review Minutes of Meeting May 27 & 28, 2009

- See draft minutes



Florida Onsite Sewage Nitrogen Reduction Strategies Study

Purpose: Develop passive strategies for nitrogen reduction that complement use of conventional onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems, and further develop cost-effective nitrogen reduction strategies

Progress:

- Draft QAPP submitted for Passive Nitrogen Removal Study Phase II



2009 Budget Language

“From the funds in Specific Appropriation 471, \$540,000 from the Grants and Donations Trust Fund is provided to the department to continue and complete the study authorized in Specific Appropriation 1682 of chapter 2008-152, Laws of Florida. The report shall include recommendations on passive strategies for nitrogen reduction that complement use of conventional onsite wastewater treatment systems. The department shall submit an interim study and report on February 1, 2010, and a final study and report on May 1, 2010, to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives prior to proceeding with any nitrogen reduction activities.”

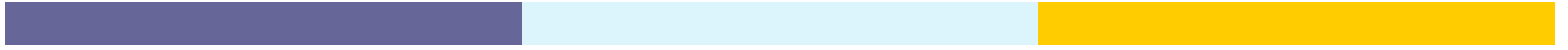


2008 Budget Language

\$1 million from the Water Protection and Sustainability Program Trust Fund shall be transferred to the Department of Health to **further develop cost-effective nitrogen reduction strategies**. The Department of Health shall contract, by request for proposal, for Phase I of an anticipated 3-year project to **develop passive strategies for nitrogen reduction that complement use of conventional onsite wastewater treatment systems**. The project shall be controlled by the Department of Health's research review and advisory committee and shall include the following components:

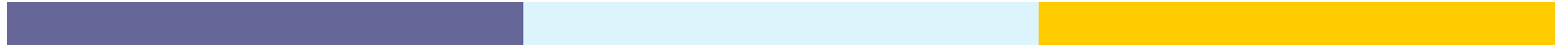
- 1) comprehensive review of existing or ongoing studies on passive technologies;
- 2) field-testing of nitrogen reducing technologies at actual home sites for comparison of conventional, passive technologies and performance-based treatment systems to determine nitrogen reduction performance;
- 3) documentation of all capital, energy and life-cycle costs of various technologies for nitrogen reduction;
- 4) evaluation of nitrogen reduction provided by soils and the shallow groundwater below and down gradient of various systems; and
- 5) development of a simple model for predicting nitrogen fate and transport from onsite wastewater systems.

A progress report shall be presented to the Executive Office of the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on February 1, 2009, including recommendations for funding additional phases of the study.

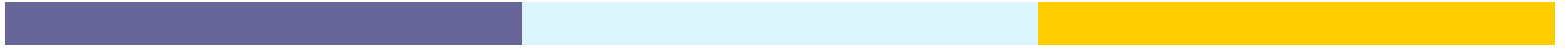


Florida Onsite Sewage Nitrogen Reduction Strategies Study

- While there is every possibility of additional funding to continue the study, we should prioritize the tasks we want to get done this year that will provide the most information and benefits



Hazen and Sawyer Presentation of:
Options for Prioritization of Tasks
and
Discussion on Passive Nitrogen
Removal Study Phase II



Ongoing projects



Statewide Inventory of Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems in Florida Study

Purpose: To provide a comprehensive inventory of the 2.5 million systems in the state

Progress:

- Final report has been submitted
- Contract has now ended
- RRAC voted the continuation of this project as a priority at the May 27th meeting
- Initial internal discussions have begun on process forward



Town of Suwannee Study

Purpose: Test the difference in water quality after central sewer has been installed in an area previously served by onsite sewage systems

Progress:

- Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) approved by DEP on May 18th
- Weekly sampling continues until mid-July
- Decision to provide source tracking for three sites (two sites with high *Enterococci* and one background) for 4 sampling events and remove Phosphorus sampling from all sites



Manatee Springs, Performance of Onsite Systems Phase II Karst Study

Purpose: Test the difference in water quality after nutrient reducing systems are installed in a Karst area

Progress:

- Modifications of systems have been completed and final approved by the County Health Department
- Background sampling event completed
- Performance sampling event completed
- Draft final report submitted
- Project to be completed in July
- Discuss option to add an additional sampling event during non-flood conditions



Monroe County PBTS Assessment: Next Phase of Sampling in the Keys

Purpose: Evaluate effectiveness of Performance Based Treatment Systems in the Keys

Progress:

- Quality control of existing data ongoing
- Phase III sampling completed, waiting for lab results
- Discussing option of paying for employee who did sampling to train new employee hired to do statewide sampling

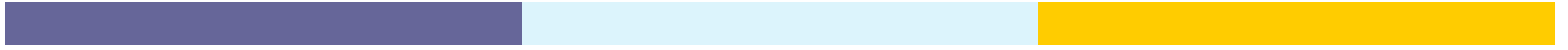


319 Project on Performance and Management of Advanced Onsite Systems

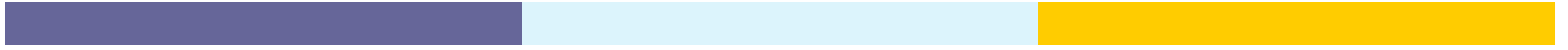
Purpose: Assess water quality protection by advanced onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems throughout the State of Florida

Progress:

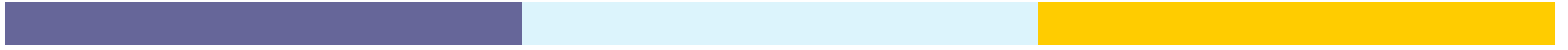
- Database of advanced systems:
 - Data has been gathered from the state database, any county specific databases, and from Carmody
 - Data fields and database structure have been discussed and sketched
- Survey of user groups perceptions task:
 - Provider is Florida State University Survey Research Laboratory
 - Development of surveys is ongoing with draft homeowner and regulator surveys nearing completion
- Debra Roberts has been hired to assist with this project. Debra is a graduate of Florida A&M University with a major in Biology and minor in Chemistry, and she has worked in several diverse arenas such as Quality Assurance Supervisor, Chemist, and QA environmental laboratory technician
- Next steps: Development of Quality Assurance Project Plan for sampling (based off of Keys Sampling Plan)



Upcoming projects



Other Business



Public Comment

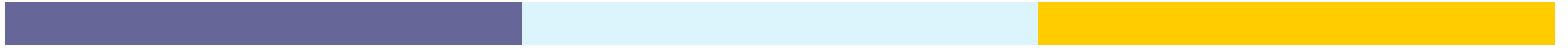


Next Meeting

Upcoming meeting topics:
Suwannee Draft Report

Proposed dates for next meeting:

- Week of August 31st?
- Other suggestions?



Closing Comments and Adjournment