

## Florida Department of Health (FDOH)

### Research Review and Advisory Committee (RRAC) Meeting Summary

Meeting on July 1, 2009

#### Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, Wimauma, FL

- **RRAC Members/Alternates Present:**
  - In person: Sam Averett, David Carter, Anthony Gaudio, Mike McInarnay, Jim Peters, Eanix Poole, Patti Sanzone, and John Schert
  - Via teleconference: Bill Melton, Vince Seibold, and Pam TuckerEight out of ten groups were present, representing a quorum
- **Review of Previous Meeting Minutes:** The minutes were approved as submitted.
- **Updates on projects:**
  - **Nitrogen Reduction Strategies Study:** The 2009 budget language was discussed. The language authorizes the department to spend \$540,000 of the funds appropriated in the 2008-2009 budget and directs the department to continue the study and submit an interim report by February 1, 2010 and a final report by May 1, 2010. While there is every possibility of additional funding to continue the study, the department and the provider should prioritize the tasks that should get done this year that will provide the most information and benefits. At this point Damann Anderson with Hazen and Sawyer presented on their proposed revision to the scope and schedule. The RRAC approved a motion to amend the contract to reflect the scope and schedule as discussed and presented by the consultants. The draft Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) was submitted for the Passive Nitrogen Removal Study Phase II and the QAPP was discussed in detail during the meeting. The basic approach is to establish a test site at the Gulf Coast Education and Research Center, use in-vessel and in-situ pilot systems, operate on septic tank effluent for 12-months, and test various nitrification and denitrification biofilters. The next steps for this project are to complete the contract amendment, complete subconsultant contract amendments, and to continue work on the test facility design and remaining tasks.
  - **Town of Suwannee Study:** The Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) was approved by all parties on May 18, 2009. Weekly sampling continues until mid-July. A decision was made to provide source tracking for three sites (two sites with high Enterococci and one background site) for four sampling events and to remove phosphorus sampling from all sites. The RRAC approved a motion to authorize staff to spend additional funds to help pay for this source tracking, and commended staff for taking this initiative.
  - **Manatee Springs, Performance of Onsite Systems Phase II Karst Study:** The modifications to the systems have been completed and final approved by the County Health Department. A background sampling event has been completed. An intensive 4-day performance sampling event has been completed. A draft final report has been submitted for review by the RRAC, DOH, and other interested parties. The project is to be completed in July. The RRAC approved a

motion to authorize staff to extend this project to add one additional sampling event.

- **Monroe County Performance Based Treatment System Performance Assessment:** Quality control of existing data is ongoing. The phase III sampling has been completed and lab results should be submitted soon. The department is discussing the option of paying the salary for the employee who did the sampling to train the new employee that has been hired to do the statewide sampling.
  - **319 Project on Performance and Management of Advanced Onsite Systems:** For the database task, data has been gathered from the state database, any county specific databases, and from Carmody. The data fields and database structure have been discussed and sketched. The Florida State University Survey Research Laboratory was selected to perform the user-group perceptions survey task, and they are currently in the process of developing the surveys with the homeowner and regulator surveys nearing completion. Debra Roberts has been hired to assist with this project, and her background was discussed. Some of the next steps for this project is to develop a Quality Assurance Project Plan for the sampling based on the Keys Sampling Plan.
  - **Statewide Inventory of Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems in Florida Study:** The final report has been submitted and the contract has now ended. The RRAC voted at the May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting to continue this project. Initial internal discussions have begun on how to do this and were presented to the RRAC. Different options will be scoped out and presented to the RRAC at a future meeting.
- **Other Business:** None
  - **Public Comment:** The public were allowed to comment throughout the meeting.
  - **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be scheduled for the beginning of September. The meeting location has not been determined, but the option of having a live meeting via teleconference and/or via the computer was discussed and staff will research this further. The focus of the next meeting will be to hear a presentation on the Town of Suwannee Study, discuss progress on the Nitrogen Reduction Strategies Study, as well as discuss current and proposed research projects.