

Florida Department of Health (FDOH)

Research Review and Advisory Committee (RRAC) Meeting Summary

Meeting on December 2, 2008, Teleconference at Southwood Complex, Tallahassee, FL

- **RRAC Members/Alternates Present:** Sam Averett, David Carter, Paul Davis, Anthony Gaudio, Marc Hawes, Mike McInarnay, Bill Melton, Jim Peters, Eanix Poole, Patti Sanzone, Clay Tappan, Pam Tucker. Seven out of nine groups were present, representing a quorum.
- **Review of Previous Meeting Minutes:** The minutes were approved with one correction on a date on page 2. Elke Ursin read Form 8A Memorandum of Voting Conflict for State Officers which was included in the minutes.
- **Brief updates on projects**
 - Ongoing projects
 - **Inventory Study** – Contract was executed on 12/1/08 and EarthSTEPS/GlobalMind is the provider. The first task is to collect and organize the data.
 - **Town of Suwannee Study** – Contract was executed on 12/1/08 and Environmental Consulting & Technology (ECT) is the provider. The first task is to develop the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP).
 - **Optical Wastewater Tracers Study (old Remote Sensing of Optical Brighteners Study)** – Analysis of data ongoing.
 - **Manatee Springs, Performance of Onsite Systems Phase II Karst Study** – QAPP for Phase II has been drafted and is nearing execution. Currently working on the designs for the nutrient reducing systems.
 - **Monroe County Performance Based Treatment System Performance Assessment** – Currently developing criteria for the next phase of sampling and then implementing the new sampling plan.
 - **319 Project on Performance and Management of Advanced Onsite Systems** – Database of advanced systems task is anticipated to be completed by Bureau staff. Anticipate advertising and hiring a temporary position to help with this project in the very near future. A Request for Quotes was advertised 12/1/08 with responses due December 16th to design and conduct a survey of various user groups regarding advanced onsite systems. User groups range from homeowners, to installers, to manufacturers, to the county health departments.
 - Projects coming up
 - **Florida Onsite Sewage Nitrogen Reduction Strategies Study** – Currently in negotiations. There was a discussion on the progress report to the legislature. The final report is to be ready for DOH internal routing no later than January 6th. Draft will be available to RRAC as soon as possible. There was a discussion on the content of the report, and there was general agreement that the report will be a status report detailing what has been done between June 2008 and the present (listing the steps for selecting a provider, the number of RRAC meetings, a comparison to the time spent on this procurement vs. other

procurements) as well as details on Phase I of the project (what's involved, the tasks, the costs) and estimates for Phase II and III.

- **Other Business** – None.
- **Public Comment**
 - **Alternative Drainfield Product Assessment** – There was a discussion on the North Carolina report on alternative drainfields and how that study may have answered many of the questions driving the need for this study. The report will be distributed to the RRAC to be discussed at a future meeting.
 - **Long-term deformation of tanks of different materials** – There was a discussion on whether this project should remain a RRAC issue or not. Paul Booher indicated that the minutes from the ad hoc committee discussed at the last meeting will be available next week. Public comment was closed during the Evaluation Team meeting for the ITN. When public comment was open they were allowed to comment.
- **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be scheduled for January 5th by conference call at 2 p.m. to discuss in detail the progress report on the Nitrogen Reductions Strategies Study.