

**MINUTES FOR THE BEAVER LAKE COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 17, 2004
TASK FORCE MEETING #2**

Members Present:

Carrol Evans
Pete Plunkett
Andy Lerberg
Laurie Johnson
Max Pecht
Gene Johnson
Kris Johnson
Dave Broskoff
Diane Broskoff
Bruce Riemer
Tom Buckingham
Bruce Paulson
Bill Kottke
Mary Lou Stursa

Steele County Representative:

Laurie Johnson

Southern Minnesota Water Resources Board:

Nick Haig

Task Force Committee Members Present:

Bruce Riemer
Bruce Paulson
Carrol Evans
Max Pecht
Pete Plunkett
Tom Buckingham

Task Force Committee Members Absent:

Rick Firme
Machelle Flugum
Larry Flugum

The purpose of this meeting was to again discuss the proposed and revised petition for a subordinate service district and to discuss site evaluations.

Pete Plunkett read the minutes from the prior Beaver Lake Committee Meeting held on January 22, 2004. Several typographical errors were noted with regard to the spelling of certain names including Dean VanHal, Bill Kottke, and Nick Haig. With these changes, it was moved by Max Pecht seconded by Carrol Evans to approve the minutes as read without any other changes. Motion carried unanimously by the committee members present.

The petition for a subordinate service district has been revised to include all of the property abutting Beaver Lake even if those properties may not need services. The revised petition and map were circulated to all cabin owners and task force members present. A lot of discussion was again had on the need for creating the subordinate service district. It was pointed out by several members that any cabin owner can take care of their own septic take issues on their own if they wish to do so. Some cabin owners are already doing this. Those cabin owners wonder why they should be part of the subordinate service district and what good it will do them. A frequently asked question (FAQ) sheet was prepared and circulated by Nick Haig. See attached. The FAQ sheet attempts to answer cabin owners' questions regarding why we need a subordinate service district. To summarize, the subordinate service district is merely a tool that can be used to implement septic systems and to ensure compliance of existing systems. It is a method to take matters into our own hands and act on a proactive basis rather than waiting to see what happens in the future. If nothing is done, the county will have no alternative but to enforce the ordinances through whatever means possible which could include fines, and other enforcement actions. The subordinate service district is also a tool that can be used to obtain easements, additional land, if necessary, through eminent domain, and to be the vehicle which will receive any loans or grants to the extent that they are available.

It was determined by the committee members that it would be appropriate to send a cover letter to all cabin owners by March 9, 2004 which includes the proposed petition and the FAQ sheet. Cabin owners will be asked to sign the petition and return it to the task force committee. It was pointed out that we do not have to have all of the signatures on the same petition. Rather, the signatures can be gathered and stapled together at a later date for presentment to the township board. It is hoped that the information provided through the cover letter and the FAQ sheet will answer most of the cabin owners' questions about the need for the subordinate service district. If owners still have questions, they will be encouraged to contact a task force committee member, Nick Haig or Laurie Johnson from Steele County. It is anticipated that task force committee members will approach non-responsive cabin owners at a later date to explain the need for the subordinate service district. It was pointed out by signing the petition at this stage, owners are merely indicating that they feel a need for the subordinate service district. Homeowners with compliant septic systems or no water use will have the option to be removed from the district but must make that request at or before the public hearing which will be held within 30 days of the petition being presented to the township board. We will need signatures from 50% of the property owners before we can present the petition for the subordinate service district to the township board. It was pointed that if there are multiple owners of one parcel, each of those owners can sign the petition and have a vote. On the leased properties, there are four owners of the entire strip of leased land. Lessees can sign the petition but their votes will not be counted towards the petition. They will however be considered by the owners in their deliberations of whether they should sign the petition or not. Laurie Johnson indicated that the county will take care of the printing of the petition and the maps and will provide them to the committee for

mailing out to the owners. Carrol Evans will prepare a draft of a cover letter and send it to Pete Plunkett for his additions and then the cover letter will be provided to all committee members for their review and approval before being sent out on March 9. Laurie Johnson reminded Pete Plunkett that the mailing list that he has for cabin owners differs from the mailing list for all owners which she has prepared. Therefore, we will be using the county's mailing list.

The second topic of discussion at the meeting was the prospect of site evaluations. Carrol Evans drafted a proposed request for proposal for site evaluations and circulated the draft to the cabin owners and committee members present. A long discussion ensued regarding the need for evaluations at this point. It was pointed out that several cabin owners are taking initiative and having their own site evaluations conducted and have plans to begin construction on septic systems this spring. The task force applauds these owners for their efforts and does not want to discourage them. With this in mind, it may be difficult to obtain a proposal from a contractor for a lump sum if certain properties that need evaluations now will be dropping off the evaluation list in 2 or 3 months. It was determined that the best approach was to simply send a very general letter to proposed contractors asking them to give us an approximation of how much it would cost for them to come to the lake and look at our situation and let us know how much it will cost on a per cabin basis for the evaluations. We want to try to do all evaluations for \$10,000.00 or less. We have a matching grant for \$3,000.00 from the Southeast Minnesota Waste Water Initiative and we have approximately \$4,000.00 in the Beaver Lake Clean Water Action Account. Laurie Johnson reported to members present that based on the information that she has now, there are 27 properties that do not need any inspection at all, and 85 that need a site visit. Of those 85, 10 need an inspection on their current system to make sure that it maintains compliance and 75 properties need designs for new systems. After we send the letter out to the contractors, and receive a response, we will be in better position to know exactly what we are dealing with. If it will cost \$150.00 per site evaluation for 85 cabins, we will be looking at a need for approximately \$12,000.00. Then the question becomes how do we fund the difference between \$6,000 and \$12,000. Carrol Evans agreed to re-draft the request for proposal letters for submission to the contractors. This process will again need to be discussed at the next meeting. It was also pointed out that since we do not have the subordinate service district in effect now, the draft for the request for proposal will have to be in the name of Beaver Lake Clean Water Action Corporation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m. Next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 23, at 7:00 p.m. in the Ellendale Community Center or at another location to be determined if the Ellendale Community Center is not available.