

**MINUTES FOR THE BEAVER LAKE COMMITTEE MEETING  
MARCH 30, 2004  
TASK FORCE MEETING #3**

**Members Present:**

Max Pecht  
Carrol Evans  
Rick Firme  
Larry Flugum  
Machelle Flugum  
Bill Newell  
Bonnie Newell  
Bob Hanson  
Jim Worrell  
Jim Cornelius  
Harold Jensen  
Bruce Paulson  
Kent Kienholz  
Liz Kienholz  
Steve Schmidt  
Andy Lerberg  
Jim Srsen  
Marilyn Srsen  
Jay Crabtree  
Lois Johnson  
Laurie Johnson  
Bruce Riemer  
Bill Kottke

**Steele County Representative:**

Laurie Johnson

**Southern Minnesota Watersources Board:**

Nick Haig

**Task Force Committee Members Present:**

Bruce Riemer  
Bruce Paulson  
Carrol Evans  
Max Pecht  
Rick Firme  
Larry Flugum  
Machelle Flugum

## **Task Force Committee Members Absent:**

Pete Plunkett  
Tom Buckingham

Nick Haig called the meeting to order. Machelleg Flugum read the minutes from the previous Beaver Lake Committee Meeting held on February 17, 2004. It was moved by Max Pecht and seconded by Rick Firme to approve the minutes as read. The motion carried unanimously by the committee members present.

Carrol Evans gave us the information he received regarding the site evaluations. He has had one meeting with one contractor. The contractor said he would be willing to spend 2 days walking the properties on Beaver Lake and do a rough site evaluation. This would include walking the property lines to see how far they could go back from the lake shore and where the back property lines were, and visiting with owners that were at their cabins to see if they knew where existing wells and septic systems were. The contractors name was Gary Hansen and he would charge the Beaver Lake Committee \$500.00 for this rough evaluation. A motion was made by Max Pecht and seconded by Larry Flugum that Gary Hansen be hired to give us a theoretical (rough site evaluation) plan for \$500.00. The motion carried unanimously by the committee members present.

Some questions that came up during this discussion were:

**Who does compliance checks?** Steele County maintains a list of MPCA-licensed contractors that have worked in the area recently, available on the beaver lake website: [www.beaverlk.org](http://www.beaverlk.org), or in the Steele County Planning & Zoning office. Contractors licensed by the MPCA can work anywhere in Minnesota. Always check with your contractor to be sure he/she is currently licensed for the work they are hired to perform. Make sure to get a bid on the work prior to hiring a contractor.

**When would Gary Hanson come out and could he let us know when he is coming? Can we get a couple of days notice?** Nick or Laurie will get a hold of Gary and ask him and then will send a post card to let everybody know.

Carrol mentioned that Gary said he would split the lake up into four areas. North, south, leased land and Valhala.

**Can you get a holding tank and be compliant?** Laurie said you can get a holding tank only if there is no other option.

After this discussion, Nick went over a hand out that was given to everybody titled "Tasks of the Beaver Lake Wastewater Task Force". Items on the hand out included:

1. What we need to do. This includes site evaluations and professional recommendations.
2. Determine feasibility of professional recommendations.
3. Work with ESSD Administrative Guidelines.

The ESSD is the management entity and its formation process is:

1. Get property owners to sign petitions.
2. After 50% of the signatures are obtained the petition is presented to the Township Board.
3. The Township Board announces there will be a public hearing within 30 days.
4. The Township either accepts or declines formation of the ESSD
5. Then there is a 60 day reverse referendum waiting period.
6. Then the Township Board and the Task Force develop administrative guidelines on how the district will fulfill its purpose.
7. The Township Board and Task Force develop rules or for users within the District.

Discussion during this period included:

The purpose of the ESSD was to get everyone into compliance and then manage the systems so that they stay in compliance.

**When do and can people opt out of the ESSD?** You can ask to be not included in the district if you can prove you are in compliance or if you have no water use on the parcel. Proposed members of the district must submit proof of either of these conditions before the Berlin Township Board at the public hearing to be scheduled less than 30 days after the Township verifies the signatures on the petition.

It was noted that if you were compliant you might want to be part of the district to take advantage of the management entity. The entity might be able to get lower costs for maintaining systems.

**If you had a parcel that needed no system would you have to pay for services?** Usually payments are for those parcels that have charges that are directly related to the services.

**What about costs for mailings and other administrative items?** That would be part of the guidelines when the district is formed. Generally, community costs would be paid by those receiving services from the district.

**If you don't sell or upgrade do you need to do anything?** You need to ask the County for clarification.

The question came up as to what power the district has for eminent domain. The district has the same as any government unit has. Nick cautioned the district to be careful on how it used this power.

**How close are we to forming a district on a number from 1 to 10, one not being close and 10 being close?** One.

**How many signatures do we have?** Nick thought there were 85 possible signatures (names on parcels in the district) and Laurie thought that we had 37 signatures back. Nick called me during the week and said that there were 126 names instead of 85, an error made by counting the total number of homes official owners live in and not including the multiple owners that share a home.

**Does a permit from the DNR trigger a compliance check?** Laurie thought it did but you should ask again to be sure.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The motion was approved unanimously. The next meeting will be April 27, 2004 at 7:00 at the Ellendale Community Center.