

Kabetogama Clean Water Initiative Steering Committee
Meeting 3
December 6, 2018

John Stegmeir Township Supervisor opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. Members present were Jeff Krueger, Lee Herseth, Holly Henrikson, Tim Henrikson and Tim Snyder. Calling in on the conference were Deb and Kevin McMillan, Rick Raun and Mia Thibodeau an attorney at the Fryberger Law Firm. All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

John Stegmeir made introductions. The October 24th meeting minutes were approved. John added Voyageurs National Park to the mission statement.

The group was discussed what type of Wastewater Management Organizational Structure they felt would best serve the potential project areas.

Mia Thibodeau attended this meeting to answer questions as to the pros and cons of the different types of organizational structures we might consider. The group focused on the Sanitary District and the Subordinate Service District structures.

While the sanitary district has the advantage of management consolidation regarding our separate project areas, this structure requires several steps and a lengthy legal process to establish. Also, it does not look as efficient economically in the short run as we organize projects by area and in the long run with additional staffing needs. It is managed by a separate board, not the township, consisting of 5 members (must be permanent residents of the township who vote in the township). The group felt it would be difficult find and keep people willing to serve on the board.

The Subordinate Service District structure is managed by the township board. An SSD is formed by petition to the township by 50% +1 of the property owners of a defined area of the township. There is flexibility in adding areas to an SSD (again, by petition). This structure seems to better fit a model of an area by area progression of projects. The township is already gaining experience in managing an SSD (Puck's Point). There is more local control in the formation and management of an SSD. An SSD is established by a grass roots movement – meaning steering committee members must be prepared to inform and educate their neighbors on the need and advantages of a community wastewater system.

After further discussion, the group they felt that a Subordinate Service District would be the best fit for our community. Committee member Tim Snyder moved to make a recommendation to the Township Board that any district created in the future be a Subordinate Service District, seconded by Rick Raun all voting aye motion carried.

The committee would like to request a petition of all the areas individually but concurrently, as is feasible in regard to readiness of the areas to petition and workload involved. The committee members from Area F feel they would get 50% +1 in their area and would be ready to petition. We need more discussion on what kind of support there is in the other areas.

The committee agrees to move forward after approval of the township board to have the Steering committee continue its work using the Subordinate Service District as the preferred organizing and management structure.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 6, at 7:00pm at the Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Manninen, Clerk