

Summary of Comments from Wastewater Management Made Easy

Session 1: Management Approaches and Building Your Database October 26, 2007

Attendees Comments:

Scituate:

- Wants to start with I&A Systems
- Will add all onsite systems to database & promote voluntary compliance
- May hire a consultant, depends on current budget issues

Tiverton:

- Existing RIWIS user
- Town-wide program, I&A Management, and cesspool phase-out.
- Sewer superintendent runs program with occasional assistance from part-time billing clerk

Portsmouth:

- Will begin in critical areas
- Will consider hiring a part time clerk to manage RIWIS database
- Gary Crosby can easily export data by management district and send to Carmody

Little Compton:

- Signed up w/ RIWIS, just recently sent data to Carmody
- Tax assessor and building official will manage the program
- Very little budget \$ to pay for implementation
- Start only with management of I&A systems, hopeful that the town will adopt ordinance a few years down the road, after they have RIWIS data to present and help make educated decisions

Narragansett:

- Current ordinance only requires mandatory pump-outs
- Town keeps great excel records
- Clerk has great knowledge of septic systems in the Town
- Diane Johnson (now working for Narragansett) thinks the transition to RIWIS will be relatively simple

Carl Rosen (Zoeller Co)

- New RIWIS Sponsor
- Offered free copies of Zoeller Fact sheets to Communities
- Wants to discuss / brainstorm ways for sponsors to be more visible and become more involved

RIDEM

- 3 RIDEM Staff member in attendance (Deb, Jen, & Jon)
- Would gladly enforce O&M contracts if there were an easier way to receive notification of non-contracts, produce letter to homeowners, receive responses, and notify communities.

Other Comments:

Cesspool Phase-out

- Rules will be out in June 2008 and are not very developed yet
- Not sure if there will be additional funding available
- There is a hardship clause included in the phase-out act
- Stakeholders process for developing regulations will also address funding issues

RIWIS Updates of State Data

- Russ C says "automatic updates" is a possibility
- Justin warns that direct update to Carmody could erase the corrections made by Towns and suggests that new data is sent to communities for QA/QC before uploading into RIWIS

Tracking Pump-Outs

- Towns need to discuss how to ensure that pump-outs are being entered through RIWIS
- Current towns only regulate inspections through RIWIS

Ideas Generated:

URI Factsheets:

- Communities can share costs by buying in bulk
- Jamestown is not using FMI factsheets will trade for RMI factsheets

Annual RIWIS Users / Sponsors Meeting:

- John Lincourt brought up the idea of a yearly meeting where users and sponsors can get together to share ideas, tips & tricks, and provide more visibility for sponsors.

Private well and Municipal Water:

- Add these sections to the property information page as option for communities to add actual water usage

Problems with excel

- Sometimes excel can make changes and add characters
- Stephen McCandles from Charlestown suggested that if you bring data into access first there are less "conversion" problems with excel.

Designer, Installer, and Maintenance Provider Information

- Add information from State licensing program
- Have a pull down list so that Town's don't have to retype this information

Final Wrap-Up and To-Dos:

- E-mail group with fields to be incorporated
- E-mail sample forms
- E-mail state data
- See if Russ can provide updated state data
- Send Foster and Scituate data to Marc Cohen

- Tasks for group members: work with state data; start getting I&A data; think about your approach to management; look at forms and come with suggestions