

**Rio Grande County Board of Health
Thursday, September 28, 2017**

Rio Grande County: Karla Shriver (chair)
Suzanne Bothell

Del Norte: Marty Asplin
Monte Vista: Carol Schroeder
South Fork:

Also present: Emily Brown (secretary)
Randy Kern
Dan Valley
Eric Roberts
Phil Leggitt
Larry Thigpen
Pam Weaver

A quorum was present. The meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m.

Approval of Agenda & Minutes

Bothell moved/Schroeder seconded to approve agenda. Motion carried. Bothelle moved/Asplin seconded to approve March and July minutes. Motion carried.

Public comment

There was no public comment.

Thigpen Public Hearing

Larry Thigpen and Dan Valley (Mountain Engineering) were both sworn in for the public hearing. Mr. Thigpen's septic system at his Masonic Park property failed, so he has been working with the Association and Mountain Engineering to remedy this issue. Their initial plan was to encase the public water line that ran through treatment area. The Masonic Park did not want the water line disturbed, which is around 6-10 feet at closest. Normal minimum setback is 25 feet, and an encasement is allowed within this. The plan being asked for approval will be putting in a curtain along line instead. This plan requires a variance. The plan and details were discussed.

Asplin moved/Bothell seconded to approve Thigpen's variance request. Motion carried unanimously.

There was additional discussion around the possible future issue of more systems in the Park failing. October 9th is the annual Association meeting at 10am at the Masonic Park lodge. DAN and EMILY will attend this meeting, and will look at also attending summer meeting where the most homeowners attend. EMILY will send new regulations, as well as Septic Smart materials, to Masonic Association so they can talk about what owners will be needing to do if their system fails.

Marty asked Dan and the Thigpen's to map out any waterlines or other features if they come across them while they are putting in the new system, so exact coordinates are known.

EMILY – look for funding sources to refer the Masonic Park to, especially programs that might be like insurance for replacement systems

OWTS regulation update

The BoH reviewed the new Reg 43 options for local regulations.

1. Both contractors and cleaners must be licensed. \$25 first time, \$10 renewal,
2. Allow variances
 - a. EMILY & RANDY will continue to write up more details of variance process and processes for moving quicker if there is a failed system
3. Original design bedrooms (Some counties are moving towards requiring)
4. May be used for effluent screens. Discussion about requiring an effluent screen. Filters can be as low as \$40, newer filters are around \$150;
 - a. RANDY will add to permit that screens are “strongly recommended”
5. Inspection ports – discussion around front ports because it allows more even distribution; more beneficial for OWTS inspections upon inspection; BoH had discussion around government intrusion and allowing individuals to make choices on their own, versus being regulated to do so
6. Vault privies - new – allow
7. Vault privies – existing – allow
8. Pit privies – table decision
 - a. The Board did not want to allow pit privies in general, but wanted to know if they had the ability to allow in unique circumstances. The variance process has been interpreted in two ways – 1) if something is not allowed, it is not allowed in any circumstance OR 2) if something is not allowed, a variance can be submitted for unique situations. The BoH would prefer option 2 if this is allowed. EMILY will research how these regulations can be interpreted.
9. Slit privies – prohibit
10. Reduction in soil treatment areas – we don’t currently have this in place; it is great to have the requirement to maintain, but local authority needs to require maintenance
11. Transfer of Title – need to keep having these discussions because when we allow systems, then later they fail, this helps to track these
12. Continued use permits – no
13. Require all soil evaluations be submitted; might be future discussion that installer be the same person who does soil test and design (or recommend this protection to consumers)

The regulations are updated once the new pit privy issue is determined. Regulations will be sent to the state for initial review, then a public hearing will be set.

Updates from Director

Action Item Review

- RANDY and EMILY will continue to work on a variance application and some details for this process.
- EMILY will bring Rabies MOU to Karla to resign once one page document is created.
- EMILY will get information on the website about rabies vaccination and quarantine procedures.
- EMILY will keep BoH updated on needle disposal, including finding spots for a disposal container.
- EMILY will add information about high lead levels and treating for lead to our website; look into offering testing for the public and promote this service.
- EMILY will make sure Gene and Lucas get Kimberly's handouts.
- EMILY will see if Rio Grande Hospital would be interested in appointing a representative to serve on our board.
- EMILY will continue to talk with RGH about aligning assessment processes
- EMILY will bring annual budget to BoH after approved.
- EMILY – Confirm with Bill the legal power of the BoH to be able to condemn properties.

- Done - EMILY will send a certified letter to all adjacent property owners and to the park association notifying them of public hearing date.
- Done - RANDY will look these up and EMILY will send out the public hearing notice.
- Done - DAN VALLEY– will ask Mr. Thigpen to get letter of consent for this plan from the Association, as well as the variance fee check.
- Done - EMILY will talk to Silver Thread and Conejos County about OWTS issues. Silver Thread is merging the regulation of Mineral and Hinsdale, and so far is not allowing new pit privies. Conejos is also not allowing new pit privies.
- RANDY will draft a letter, for Board signature, that can be used to notify owners of this decision if they decide to build and utilize previously built septic systems.

Other updates

Environmental Health reports will be emailed. They may be looking for part time help next summer. Public Health has a new nurse on staff – Paul Wertz

Updates

Del Norte -lift station in the process of getting approval to be built

Monte Vista – no updates

County – no updates

Other business

Next Meeting

The next BoH meeting will be December 14th at 3:30 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:19.

Submitted by

Emily Brown, Secretary