

Unapproved Minutes

**CORINNA TOWNSHIP INFORMATIONAL MEETING – INDIVIDUAL SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM**

**103<sup>RD</sup> Street NW, Clearwater Lake.**

**Wednesday, July 6, 2005, town hall, 7 p.m.**

Persons signed in: Wayne Jacobson, Pat Anderson, C. Merle Anderson, Marvin Brunsell, Raymond Svoboda, John Jenkins, Robert Crews, Jan Jenkins, Mary Svoboda, Rita Crews, Helen Allen, Rick and Debbie Erickson, Dan Erickson, Roger Bernards, Gail Bernards, Wally and Shirley Larson, David Stein, Judy Grega, Barb Johnson, Harvey and Joyce Dahl and Kevin Lindquist. Town Board: Chairman John Dearing, absent., Supervisor Bill Lieb, Supervisor Ken Jude and Clerk, Vi Novotne, present..

Vice-Chairman, Bill Lieb opened the meeting promptly at 7 p.m. and introduced Merle Anderson, Administrator, Clearwater River Watershed District.

Merle Anderson introduced Wayne Jacobson of Wenck Associates, as the person who also performed the fieldwork for the individual sewage treatment system evaluation of the 32 parcels on 103<sup>rd</sup> Street of Clearwater Lake. Merle continued that Corinna Township was reconstructing 103<sup>rd</sup> Street and the township felt it was important to have a bigger picture of the sewer situation. When the road is rebuilt, property owners will start dreaming of improving property and could build five feet away from the neighbor's septic system. The property owners could have information for what their current septic system status is and if there was an alternative septic system site on the parcel? Septic tanks, drainfield ports and soil boring locations were GPS located. Observations were made of signs of poor septic systems such as standing surface water, and poor soil conditions were noted. Wright County provided files of the septic system information and interviews were made with property owners if they were available.

Merle Anderson had a evaluation summary report for each property owner. The handbook lists property owner by address, site map shows location of buildings drainfield and T Port and summary statements.. For example, the summary statement evaluation notes were: if a holding tank system was observed, on the parcel site map, a possible alternative site would be marked where the soils may be suitable. Another evaluation note might include that an alternative septic location was not found considering setback requirements on the property.

Wayne Jacobson, Soil Scientist for Wenck Inc, stated that 103<sup>rd</sup> Street had 32 lots. He consulted with Merle Anderson of the Watershed and Sean Riley of Wright County. The fieldwork was conducted on May 26, May 31 and June 2, 2005. Septic System installation dates ranged from 1970 to the present. One lot was vacant and six lots had unknown septic systems. Eleven lots had a possible secondary site, 14 lots where septic system must be replaced in same location and 7 lots with holding tanks with no standard drainfield possibility. Septic systems should not be located in the 10-year floodplain because they would not function properly if flooded. Installers, designers and pumpers today have considerable training and are informed as to the factors of distances from well to lake, well to septic system and can make soil borings to locate an alternative site. Wayne concluded that Clearwater Lake is a 3,100 acre lake with valuable Bass, Northern, Walleye, Crappie, and Sunfish fishing. Clearwater Lake is one of the jewels of the County as it has good water quality compared to other lakes and the lake supports recreation activities including fishing and swimming.

Merle Anderson continued that Southside Township is considering the inventory for the rest of 103<sup>rd</sup> Street and Montgomery.

There are six different types of Septic Systems and a reason for each one could be lot is high, lot is low, or lot is wide or deep or soil criteria. Eleven lots have the possibility of alternative sites. This inventory looked at soil conditions and there may be other reasons why the site is not acceptable. An example is, a property owner builds a house and places the well that

prevents the neighbor to place a septic system. Fourteen lots have septic systems that must go in the same location. Reasons could be the setback from lake, the setback from the property line, setback from the road and buildings and the location of his neighbor's well and his own well. Seven lots have holding tanks. This is not a problem but has limitations such as pumping. It is important to plan ahead as it relates to septic systems.

The County and the Township will each receive an Evaluation handbook where the recorded contractor is on file and two photos of each property.

The Watershed has two requests of the propertyowner: As the Watershed paid for the inventory, they are to use the information as a planning tool and develop a sense of community. Two neighbors dream of how to add on to their home. One makes a decision one day earlier. Second neighbor comes in for a permit and the 1st neighbor has well where the 2<sup>nd</sup> neighbor needed to place his septic system. Planning may relieve stress. Planning is a way for all to gain.

Questions/Comments:

Harvey Dahl, property owner on 103rd: What is the requirement for upgrading.

Merle Anderson: If the property sells or a building permit is needed. Every septic system may appear to be conforming. At the point of sale, the county makes an inspection. Merle stated that the Watershed role was to inspect not to report. Every property owner is responsible to have a conforming or working system. If informed, Planning and Zoning will make an inspection. Property owner should use operating maintenance – “get stuff before it flows to drainfield. The 24” requirement went into effect in 1995. With over 500 homes around the lake and the possibility of the percentage of five different types of systems, it is physically impossible to run inspections.

Marvin Brunsell, Chairman of the Clearwater River Watershed Board, The project engineer shows the contour of the lake, the land and the road. In some cases the holding tank is necessary.

Bill Lieb, Township Supervisor. The recent Advocate article on the septic survey stated that seven properties use holding tanks and don't even have drainage systems. Holding tanks provide a good septic system and do not consist of a drainfield. County and township have a requirement that a home being improved at 50% of value may have a holding tank.

Judy Grega, property owner on 103<sup>rd</sup> Street. Why does Planning and Zoning punish people with holding tank septic systems. The county should be actively looking into the future and allow holding tanks because of the lack of an alternative.

Merle Anderson: The survey does not reveal if a holding tank is compliant. This was a walk-on project and often a pipe or records could not be found.

Orval Dahl. It makes sense to develop community planning.

Merle Anderson: This inventory provides information of value for planning. A property owner can save money by using this information as there is not a need for more engineering. A property owner should think about the effect of what is done on my lot and what effect it will have on my neighbor's lot.

Unknown. Is there space for a community system.

Merle Anderson. That is not known.

Ken Jude. Generally a community system is possible, but the system may require a distance.

Merle Anderson concluded the meeting by inviting the property owners to look at their lot site map and the evaluation. Eight property owners requested the clerk to mail them a copy of their site map and evaluation: Bob Crews, Barb Johnson, John Jenkins, Rick Erickson, Helen Allen, David Stein(2) and Andrew Scheu-Karen Lindquist.

Respectfully submitted,

Vi Novotne, Clerk