

Wastewater Informational Meeting
August 16, 2008
9 AM

Joyce Wittman, president of the Wastewater Committee gave an introduction and background information relating to the organization of the Wastewater Committee.

Valerie Prax, Regional Extension Educator/Onsite Sewage Treatment Program from the U of M, gave an overview of what wastewater is and what septic systems do. She went through the types available and how they work.

Options for the community:

- Decentralized
 - Individual System
 - Small Cluster System
 - Large Cluster System
- Centralized
 - City-wide

Peter Miller, Soil Scientist from Wenck Associates, talked about the Individual Septic Tank System (ISTS) inspections. He also explained the offsite and onsite inspections. The breakdown of the existing systems are:

- 50% subsurface systems
- 25% mound
- 10% holding tanks
- 10% cesspools – sandy bottom tanks

For a septic system to be complaint the following three criteria needed to be met:

- Watertight tank – below operating depth
- No signs of surfacing
- Drain field or mound – 3-foot vertical separation

The status of the ISTS inspections:

- 69% non compliant (70% of these were because of not meeting vertical separation)
- 29% compliant
- 2% undetermined

The ISTS upgrade options were:

- Standard Drain field or mound - 25%
- Holding tank – 42%
- Disturbed sites – already had mounds and not additional room – 30%
- Performance system – treatment beyond soil

Peter investigated the potential for combining lots to a cluster system for those lots that had disturbed sites. He gave costs for each of the upgrade options.

Vince VanderTop from Wenck Associates reviewed the county information on the loop system and the costs.

Peter Miller then discussed the pros and cons for ISTS, Cluster systems, and the Loop system.

The meeting was then opened for questions.

Joyce Wittman gave the attendees information relating to the next steps. Each homeowner will receive their ISTS information mailed to them. This report will also project costs for necessary improvements for 5 – 25 years. This report should reach your home sometime in September.

A ballot will be mailed to each homeowner to vote for Individual Septic Tank Systems or a loop installed by the county. This ballot will be mailed after homeowners have had time to read and understand their individual ISTS information.

Sandra George
Secretary