Liaison Committee Meeting Minutes-May 19, 2006

Present: Joe Wyatt, Stan Walls, Mike Trantham, Brad Cochran, Jon Welch, Steve Bayer, Arletta Lancaster. Guest Attendee: Karol Wallingford

Absent: Michelle Cochran, Ryan Harbison, Lock Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM by Joe Wyatt

Joe: The individuals for the positions of the Beckley District Sanitarian and the Fairmont Sewage position have been selected. Paperwork is being moved forward for the sewage position while the individual who will become the Beckley District Sanitarian will begin June 1, 2006.

The Assistant Director position has been posted and four applications have been received. An interview team will begin to interview the applicants in the near future. Joe is also trying to get a position approved to provide Linda Whaley some assistance. A mistake may have been made in combining the Food Program Manager and the Training Officer position. If approved, this person will be involved in both programs.

PHS will continue to provide NCR forms as long as money is available. This reduced form costs from over $10,000 to around $3000.

Joe mentioned he received a question from a LHD concerning issuing new sewage permits when installers change design, etc. Discussion from the group ensued and the consensus was that a new application should be received when changes are made to the design of a system, a new application is needed, but a new permit number would not be as long as adequate documentation is done.

Brad: Discussed Procedure’s Manual procedure #A-19. This procedure required that a social security number be provided on every applicant for a license, permit, certificate of registration, or registration under Chapter 16, Article 1, Section 18a. This section of the code no longer exists and reference is now made under 16-1-3 which states ”within limits of the applicable federal law, the secretary may require every applicant for a license, permit, etc. under this chapter to place his or her social security number on the application. Discussion ensued ant it was agreed that a change in A-19 be made and that permit applications, etc. should not be held, denied, etc. if a social security number was not present.

The Hot Tub Committee has come up with guidelines for private residential hot tubs and spas which do not fall under 64CSR16 “Recreational Water Facilities” requirements. This guideline was created due to the increasing amount of hot tubs at cabin rentals throughout WV. Guidelines were passed out to each member and each was asked to comment prior to release of the guideline.
A concern was raised as to fire departments hauling water for filling private swimming pools. Are LHDs responsible for requiring them to register as potable water haulers? DW-27 gives specific guidelines as meeting requirements for hauling potable water. Some EED offices are requiring fire departments to register with LHDs based on EPA definition of potable water. After discussion of DW-27 and whether or not a fire department tanker could be used to haul potable water, the committee agreed that unless a fire department had a tanker designated for potable water only, a normal use tanker could not meet the requirements of DW-27. Also LHDs should not be involved with fire departments supplying water for private, individual use. Joe will discuss with EED personnel.

A LHD raised concerns as to the legality of a county health dept. doing inspections on state property. An opinion was requested from Anthony Eates, Asst. Attorney General, and his opinion was yes LHDs do have the authority to conduct inspections on state property. A discussion ensued and it was decided that A-4, an old policy memo from 1986, which listed roles for state and local health departments needed to be updated. A subcommittee will be selected by Steve Bayer, who volunteered to chair the group.

Fees for Permit increase applications have started coming in. # have been approved to date with several requests expected next week.

Brad also gave a TP update from Michelle, who was unable to attend this meeting. Michelle requested feedback for vulnerability assessments at food establishments and had sent an e-mail requesting such information earlier. Only 2 responses had been received to date. Michelle would also like input for ideas to include in the renewal of the OEHS TP grant.

**Jon:** No requests from counties but several local issues need addressed. Should non-profit agencies pay a mass gathering permit for an event such as a fair or festival? Discussion ensued and the consensus was yes. The only provision allowing non-profit exempt status is for temporary food events.

Concerns were raised about EED approving plans for pools using the 2003 design standards when our rule references the 1991 standards. A lot of discussion took place about why use old, new, etc. concerning entrapment issues. The 2003 design standards do not require a main suction drain with other alternative designs. The group decided that we should be following what the rule referenced, but a change in our rule may be needed if we are going to follow the most current design.

Jon also asked a couple of sewage questions and Brad had gotten answers to these from Rick Hertges. State approved technologies may be put on the web site at a later date; HAU casting tanks should not be considered a septic tank. Size of 1st compartment was a main concern. If a mfg. would like approval they must go through proper channels; Drip irrigation has not yet been approved as an alternative system. It would still be classified as an experimental system.
**Arletta:** A question was asked concerning peat filter sewage systems receiving an extra depth reduction. She states a manufacturer has stated that their system has received a reduction approval. No one on the committee is aware of any reduction being allowed.

Richard Wheeler had asked about if mold standards are available for clean-up issues. The committee stated no standards have been devised to this date but referred any concerns to RTIA.

Richard had also expressed concerns about complaints being filed with LHDs concerning homes with large amounts of animals being kept inside. It is not a public health issue. It should be referred to the local animal wardens if possibility of mistreatment of animals is suspected.

**Karol:** Raised concerns about waivers being issued for distance requirements between wells and septic systems, particularly soil absorption fields. WV regs allow this to occur, but there is evidently a variety of waivers being issued throughout the state. After discussion concerning as to should waivers be allowed, the criteria being used, and for what purposes were waivers being granted, the Liaison Committee decided a committee should be formed to look into the issue. Arletta agreed to chair the committee and Karol agreed to be an EED representative. Other LHD personnel would be contacted and asked to serve.

**Mike:** Nothing new to report.

**Stan:** A regional epidemiologist has been hired and will start June 1st.

At an earlier meeting, discussion occurred concerning a policy on closing schools due to temperature requirements. Stan asked if BOEs had specific policies or guidelines. No one on the committee knew of any.

LHDs are not receiving copies of plans from EED on projects such as pool, mhps, etc. Only receiving construction permits. Joe will check with EED.

**Steve:** Only had one question concerning fees for permit rule pertaining to vending machines. A maximum of 6 machines at one site can be charged. If there are multiple machines at different locations, fees will be charged at each location.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 11, 2006 in Flatwoods @ 10:30.

Meeting adjourned