

# CARA Review Committee

## May 14, 2013 Meeting Summary

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### Meeting Attendees

Committee members that attended the meeting:

- Steve Davenport\*\*, Spokane County Building and Planning
  - Lloyd Torgerson, Torgerson Properties
  - Ned Wendle, Mead School District
  - Guy Gregory, Washington State Department of Ecology
  - Steven Holderby, Spokane Regional Health District
  - Eric Meyer\*\*, Spokane Regional Health District
  - Jeanne Barnes, Spokane Association of Realtors
  - Jim Harakas, GeoEngineers, Inc.
  - Bryce Robbert, Avista Utilities
  - Rick Eichstaedt, Center for Justice/Riverkeeper
- \*\* alternate committee member

County staff and consultants that attended the meeting:

- Bruce Rawls, Spokane County Utilities
- Rob Lindsay, Spokane County Utilities
- Mike Hermanson, Spokane County Utilities
- Mike Murray, HDR Engineering
- Michael Kasch, HDR Engineering
- Sarah Hubbard-Gray, Hubbard Gray Consulting
- Stan Miller, Inland Northwest Water Resources

### Welcome and Introductions

Sarah Hubbard-Gray, the meeting facilitator, welcomed the committee members and confirmed that everyone knew each other.

Sarah provided an overview of the work since the last committee meeting, which included development of HDR's draft Final CARA Review Report that incorporates the technical information included in the four technical memos previously developed with updates that addressed committee comments and additional technical work conducted. Then she explained that the goals of the meeting are to 1) wrap up the CARA review scientific evaluation and recommendation development, and 2) gather input from the committee members on critical revised CARA standard language needs.

Sarah asked if there were any comments or clarification on the February 20, 2013 CARA Review Committee meeting summary. No comments were provided.

Sarah then provided a summary of the results from the September 2012 CARA Survey, so committee members could consider them as the draft final CARA Review recommendations were discussed.

## **HDR Draft Final CARA Review Report: Overview of new and updated technical elements**

Michael Kasch and Mike Murray provided an overview of the draft Final CARA Review Report. The presentation included information on:

- Report structure.
- Review of existing CARA non-residential wastewater code.
- Technical work completed – examined characteristics of non-residential wastewater; reviewed potential fate and transport of wastewater.
- Recommended approach – three level approach, analysis methods, CARA Spreadsheet inputs, nitrogen assessment, and phosphorus assessment.
- CARA Spreadsheet for Level 1 and 2 assessments and WDOH LOSS assessment for Level 3 assessments.

Mike Hermanson provided an explanation of Spokane County's recently conducted groundwater recharge analysis that provides an updated recharge rate map that is more site-specific . The presentation included:

- An explanation of how recharge is incorporated into the recommended Level 1 and Level 2 CARA analysis.
- An overview of groundwater recharge.
- An explanation of the recharge analysis conducted that uses a USGS Groundwater Recharge Model and the associated data inputs.
- Presentation of the updated Spokane County Recharge Estimate Map showing the modeled annual average recharge (delineated to 10 acre cells).

Mike Murray then provided a summary of the CARA Review recommendations:

- Based on scientific data and analyses.
- Protective of sensitive groundwater and surface water.
- Provides a consistent review method for Spokane County.
- Provides a straightforward submittal for the applicant.
- Includes an adaptable approach for site specific conditions and/or specific project proposals.

Following the presentations a variety of committee questions and comments were discussed, including:

- Consideration of irrigation water in the recharge analysis.
- How recharge map would be used by applicants.
- How recharge is calculated to develop average annual value.

- Consideration of CARA high, medium, and low aquifer sensitivity designations and the opportunity for developers to challenge the designation accuracy for a project site.
- Consideration of soil type in aquifer sensitivity designations and recharge analysis.
- Confirmation that Ecology's previous comments have been addressed.
- Additional explanation of how phosphorus was evaluated and how it would be considered in the three level project analysis approaches.
- Interest in expansion of the Growth Management Area to include the Mead/Mount Spokane area.

Sarah asked the committee members if they support the scientific approach presented in the draft Final CARA Review Report. The majority of the committee members indicated support for the approach, while a couple committee members indicated that they still had questions and/or comments before they could indicate support. Some of the comments provided included:

- Ned Wendle indicated that the ability to include site specific information is an improvement.
- Rick Eichstaedt said that he would provide comments on the phosphorus analysis—include more discussion in the report and explain when additional phosphorus evaluation would be needed.
- Guy Gregory explained that Ecology 1) likes the three page explanation in the report and recommended that it be further edited to serve as a guidance document, 2) understands the applicability of using the 200 foot Shorelines designation for the phosphorus consideration, but recommends further explanation of the connection and why it is applicable for CARA, and 3) views that the CARA recommendations meet Ecology and Heath objectives.

Sarah explained that written comments on the HDR Draft Final CARA Review Report are due by Friday May 24, 2013, and that they should be emailed to Rob Lindsay. It was reiterated that the scientific evaluation and associated recommendation development are being wrapped up and this is the committee's last opportunity to provide comments before HDR completes their work and finalizes their report.

## **Development of Revised CARA Standard Language**

Rob Lindsay described the process and timeline, major elements of the regulation, and approach for addressing CARA concerns. Highlights from his presentation include:

- Keep the CARA Review Committee engaged through July 2013 to provide comments and perspectives on the revised draft CARA standard language.
- Spokane County Utilities is currently coordinating with County Building and Planning on development of the revised standard language.
- Rob plans on distributing the first draft of the revised CARA standard language to the committee in early June 2013.
- Three additional meetings are anticipated – one in mid-June, one in early July and one in late July (if a third additional meeting is needed).

- After the CARA Review Committee comments have been considered, the revised draft CARA standard language will be presented to the County Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the County Commissioners and a formal hearing process will be held before the County Commissioners consider adopting revisions to the standard.
- It is anticipated that Attachment A of HDR's Final CARA Review Report will be used as a guidance document.
- Spokane County Utilities Division will continue to review CARA wastewater applications.
- The revised CARA language will address concerns such as enforcement, monitoring, appeals process, changes in land and site use over time, changes in wastewater discharge rates, etc.

Committee members suggested that 1) a flow chart be considered to help explain the CARA analysis and implementation requirements, 2) the relationship between CARA and the Shorelines Protection Act be consistent and described in the revised language, and 3) the revised language include a description of what meets the revised CARA criteria.

## Next Steps

Sarah explained that:

- Written comments on draft Final CARA Review Report are due by Friday May 24, 2013. Comments should be sent to Rob Lindsay.
- Suggestions related to the revised CARA standard language should be sent to Rob Lindsay by Wednesday May 22, 2013. They will be considered as the draft standard is written, along with responses to the CARA Survey. Comments should be sent to Rob Lindsay.
- The CARA Spreadsheet, developed by HDR for use in the recommended Level 1 and 2 analyses, will be emailed to the CARA Review Committee members for those interested in understanding how the Excel spreadsheet is set up. Please let Rob Lindsay know if you find any issues with the spreadsheet and/or have questions.
- The draft revised CARA standard language will be provided to the CARA Review Committee in early June for their review before the next meeting.
- The next CARA Review Committee meeting will be June 19, 2013 from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm (location to be determined).