

Onsite Sewage Treatment Program

*Water Resources Center
University of Minnesota
Extension Service*

*Room 173 McNeal Hall
1985 Buford Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108*

*800-322-8642
Fax: 612-624-6434
<http://septic.umn.edu>*

William Crawford
Northwest Michigan Onsite Wastewater Task Force
PO Box 792
Traverse City, MI 49685

August 11, 2006

Dear Mr. Crawford,

I was pleased to hear that your organization is working on an EPA pre-proposal to work with a watershed and a lake association to develop a watershed based approach to the replacement and management of septic systems. This project could serve as a great model to the rest of Michigan, demonstrating a multi-jurisdictional wastewater management district in a state with no uniform code. I was glad to hear that Dr. Dick Otis is now serving as a consulting engineer for your organization as he will be a great asset to this project because of his vast wealth of engineering knowledge, his board participation with NOWRA and his extensive involvement in the development of the EPA's Voluntary Guidelines.

As you are aware, we have one of the first management districts of this kind, which was installed in 1984 in the Otter Tail, Minnesota area. The Otter Tail Water Management District is a very successful example of the level 4 and level 5 EPA management guidelines.

In my position at the University of Minnesota as an Extension Specialist, I have assisted the Otter Tail district in development of education materials and project assessment. I also coordinate a decentralized wastewater treatment subgroup under the EPA Region 5 Water Quality program. This group focuses on cross-boundary educational and research programs. I also have the honor of serving on the NOWRA board and am their education committee chairperson. The project you are proposing would certainly fulfill the NOWRA education goals of integrated watershed planning and voluntary implementation of a Model Code.

I was so glad to hear that your group was able to use the University of Minnesota's Small Community Guidebook to begin a public participation and education initiative with the goal of the community coming to a consensus based on informed consent. As this project proceeds consider additional University of Minnesota resource materials available for your project.

Through both of my roles at the University and NOWRA, I would be available to provide resources, consulting time and materials to assist with project planning, public outreach education and document preparation. This project will be a great continuation of our ongoing relationship, having worked on past projects providing advice, materials and presentations. I would estimate \$10,000 in my University role and \$5,000 in my NOWRA role should be sufficient to cover travel and consulting time.

Please inform me if I can be of further assistance in your grant development and I wish the project the best of luck as I believe it would a wonderful opportunity to further develop the tools and resources to help Michigan's residents as well as citizens across the US.

Sincerely,



Sara Christopherson