

Septic Update: After a short delay due to staffing changes at Washington DOH, our Engineer was able to meet with the new person in charge of Waster Water Management to discuss our project. The meeting was very positive, and DOH has asked for an “abbreviated” pre-design report, which is less than the previously requested full design report.

Our Engineer will have this completed by the end of this week and will submit it along with an application for construction. After DOH receives the report and application, we will schedule a date to dig test pits so DOH can assess our soils, and hopefully, approve the system recommended by our Engineer. The next step will be to put the design on paper and find a contractor to complete construction.

I have contacted every septic contractor licensed in Jefferson County, and asked if they were interested in bidding on this project. I have sent follow up emails to the 5 that responded, and only 1 has responded back with the requested references for projects of similar size. Most will not even talk to us until we have a design on paper, so once that step is complete, I will contact the 5 interested companies again and give them a deadline to respond with a bid and their references. I will then contact the leaseholders that signed up for the Septic Interest Group, and we will look over the bids and select a contractor for our project.

Things are moving along, even if it seems somewhat slow. We will continue to report progress and updates as soon as we are aware of them.

I was asked to address the use of clothes washers in private residences and RVs after the new septic system is installed. We do not have the land available to install a septic system that can accommodate the use of private washing machines. Our new system will be designed based on sewage flow only. When the new system is installed, our rules will remain the same and not allow the use of clothes washers in private residences.

I understand how challenging this septic issue has been for everyone. I’m in the same boat you are. I could show you what I deal with every day... photos of our clogged septic lines, explain sewage flow rate calculations that have a huge impact on our new septic design, the procedures I am required to follow for septic failures and all that has goes into understanding , managing, and keeping our tired septic system running. But honestly, it’s not necessary that you see what I see or even begin to understand all that my job entails. You trust me to do my part, and I trust you to do yours. This goes beyond the potlucks, and gatherings and everything our community does to support each other. Our septic issue is truly about a Community making a difference and everyone doing their part, unrecognized and behind the scenes. Thank you for every shower in the restrooms and every bucket of tap water caught. Your efforts and cooperation are truly sustaining us.

You have no idea how much I rely on you... just as you rely on me. Dealing with our septic issue has been extremely stressful, feeling that the whole subsistence of our community rests upon my shoulders and my decisions. You have done everything I have asked, and continue to do so. I will do my part, and you will continue to do yours. And together, we will get through this... however long it takes.

We have so much to be thankful for. Our septic issue is just a bump in the road. We have our beautiful home and we have each other. I don’t care that I can’t flush my toilet, because I’m thankful for things

that are much more important... My home, this community as a whole, my job, the other employees who assist me every day, and each of you. We are a team, you and I. I am your employee, but I am also a Leaseholder, your neighbor and your friend. We share common goals, and have to work together to make them happen. I am thankful to be given the opportunity to work for such a loving and supportive community. From the bottom of my heart... what you give to me far exceeds what I feel I give to you.

I'm very thankful to have been able to work for this outstanding Board of Directors. From them, I have received great support, and sometimes great patience. Each has taught me a different lesson and I have learned much from their guidance and advice. They are volunteers, and they oversee your employees, DBR issues and business with the utmost of professionalism. I have been in their shoes, and I understand the hours required and how challenging it can be to serve on the BOD. I want to thank them for all that they have personally done for me, and all that they do for us.

Melinda, Dave and I are an amazing team. I ask way more of my fellow employees than they ever ask of me. Melinda is always there for me, and willing to spend her time to assist me in any way possible. I hate asking for help, but we both know that there are many tasks that she can accomplish in a minute that would take me much, much longer. I rely on her, and want her to know how much I appreciate all she does to support me.

Honestly, it would be very difficult to do my job without Dave. He reports early for every shift and always far exceeds my expectations. I give him a variety of tasks to choose from each day, and he always selects the most difficult one! Do you know that he gives up easy hours at his other job to work extremely hard hours for us? I have the utmost respect for him. Dave is as important to this community as you and I are.

Dave doesn't get to interact with you in the same way that Melinda and I do. I want him to know how appreciated he is, and how much his hard work means to us. At tonight's dinner, I am going to have a special box for Dave. I want you to put something really valuable in that box. A simple note, saying that you recognize and appreciate his efforts. I know this will mean a lot to him, and it would mean a lot to me if you take a moment to thank him for all that he does for us.

My goal is to always make you smile, so I've prepared a special thing for you, with a little help from my friend, Marcia.

Septic Song: Sung to the tune of Five Foot Two

We can't pee, we can't poo,
Oh, what are we gonna do?
We really need a septic now!

Turned up nose, what's that smell?
We can't flush, oh, this is hell!
We really need a septic now!

If you see yellow mellowing, eyes are a blurr,
Showers in the common bathrooms,
Wear a robe or create a stir!

We'll get through...

Like we always do...

Standing strong like women do...

We'd really like a septic, we don't need a septic, but we'd really love a septic NOW!