

BOD Meeting June 29, 2018 Facilities Report

Septic update:

ADC Engineering has spoken with Wa DOH. The State has requested a full Pre-Design Report for their review. Then they would schedule a date to come look at the soils with together. DOH liked the idea of replacing the entire system.

With the new septic design, it will not be necessary to keep the Meadow drainfield.

So, the next step is for ADC to prepare the Pre-Design Report and get that ready to submit to DOH for formal review.

Cleaning Products:

I have been asked to address the topic of the cleaning products we use in our common areas and restrooms. To protect public health, these areas need to be disinfected, which exceeds the level of basic sanitation and cleaning.

We typically use a diluted bleach solution for toilets and showers, and let it sit for at least 10 minutes before rinsing or drying. We use Soft Scrub on the shower floors to remove dirt and body oils. We have experimented with a variety of products for the floors including vinegar, Mr. Clean , 409 and others, mostly concerned with finding a product that disinfects and does not leave a dirty, filmy residue. I realize our current cleaning products are not necessarily the most environmentally friendly, but they are readily available, disinfect to the level we need and are inexpensive.

I have spent several hours this week, and more hours prior to this, trying to find cleaning products that are scent free and environmentally friendly. There is a ton of information on the internet, and even the most informative of articles are published by manufacturers trying to sell a product. None of it can be trusted, and all products require in-depth research to determine if they truly suit our needs. Research quickly becomes information overload.

Some products may be well suited for your own home, but may not be appropriate to use in public restrooms and showers, where disinfection requirements are much higher. In all of my hours of research, I have not found a product that is scent free, environmentally friendly and meets the disinfection and cleaning needs of a public shower and restroom. Diluted bleach remains the most used, most recommended and least expensive product to kill pathogens.

Jefferson County DOH conducted a surprise visit this week, to assess water quality and laws regarding maintenance of public pools. (We passed with flying colors!) I asked the DOH employee the best way

to sanitize public showers. He recommended a diluted bleach solution. I also found several pages of information about cleaning with bleach on the DOH website. Diluted bleach solution is the most common method for disinfecting high risk areas, and is still recommended by the Health Dept for all sanitization needs in restaurants.

Our local YMCA also uses a diluted bleach solution to disinfect their public showers.

Even though a diluted bleach solution remains the most acceptable and inexpensive way to disinfect high risk areas, I am open to change. Honestly, I have no preference about what products we use, as long as it disinfects and is affordable. I would welcome the assistance of those wanting to see us change to healthier cleaning products. I support this change, but I have yet to find a product that can accomplish both cleaning and disinfection. I am sure there are products available to meet all of our needs but I have not been able to find them on my own.

Please contact me if you have product suggestions or want to assist in this research.

Barb Gilger – Facilities Manager