

**askHRgreen.org | FOG Education Committee Meeting Summary**  
**Tuesday, January 21, 2020**  
**Public Works - Newport News**

**Attendees:**

Jerry Hoddinott, CH  
 Lindsay Dierks, NO  
 Amanda Albright, HRSD  
 Amy Ziemann, YK  
 E'Laura Conrad, NN  
 Lacie Weaver, HRSD  
 Brent Werlein, VB  
 Regina Duncan, HA  
 Mike Martin, HRSD  
 John Newton, NN

Kate Bernatitus, NNN  
 Kenneth Eakes, GL  
 Lacie Wever, HRSD  
 Randy Estness, YK  
 Cathy Filipowski, CH  
 Jason Lee, CH  
 Angel Perez, HA  
 Katie Cullipher, HRPDC  
 Rebekah Eastep, HRPDC  
 Beth Vandell, HRPDC

The summary for the meeting is as follows:

**1. Meeting Summary**

The December meeting summary was reviewed and approved.

**ACTION:** Meeting summary approved.

**2. askHRgreen.org Events**

1/25	Jam'n Jamz	Norfolk
2/8 - 2/9	Hampton Roads Home Show*	Hampton
3/7 - 3/8	Mid Atlantic Home & Outdoor Living Show*	Virginia Beach
3/27 - 3/28	Great American Cleanup*	Hampton Roads
4/4 - 4/5	Daffodil Festival	Gloucester
4/11	Go Green Market	Yorktown
4/18	Virginia Living Museum Earth Day Festival	Newport News
4/22	Poquoson Earth Day	Poquoson
TBD	Newport News Ship Building Health and Safety Expo	Newport News

*\*Volunteers needed to support attending this event.*

Volunteers will be needed for the Mid Atlantic Home & Outdoor Living Show in Virginia Beach. Hampton Roads Home Show has sold out so there will be no comp space for the askHRgreen.org trailer this year.

**Action:** Committee members should reserve trailer early for any upcoming events.

**3. Printing & Promotional Items**

HRPDC staff provided quotes for the requested promotional items. The Committee decided to purchase the following: toilet squeezers (5,000), no grease stickers (2,500) – new design with addition of food and dairy, two-inch what not to flush stickers (2,500), and magnet clips (1,500).

Down the Drain brochures are also on order.

**Action:** HRPDC staff will order promotional items and send no grease sign artwork for review.

#### 4. Grease Interceptor Training Course

The Committee discussed the grease interceptor training held at HRPDC in January. Takeaways from the training included:

- Opportunities to move away from 25 percent rule because it is not based on scientific methods.
- Ordinances with locally specific regulations are better than relying on the International Plumbing Code (IPC). Ordinances cannot rely on IPC alone.
- Grease interceptors made of steel and concrete are essentially septic tanks and there's no proof they work well at preventing FOG from entering the sanitary sewer system. In some cases, the concrete and steel traps can even contribute contaminants to the sanitary sewer system.
- Plastic tanks with performance-based standards on grease capacity and flow should replace the 25 percent on new interceptors.
- 25 percent rule will need to be maintained as a backup standard and for legacy systems.
- Model ordinance and recommended language from Ken - Cary, NC has used his help for this
- Two minute v. one minute drain time for sinks
- All fixtures should be attached to a GGI moving forward in new development (not retrofits). Impacts on small business must be considered before requiring GGI installations (case-by-case enforcement is needed so inspectors can investigate contributions to the wastewater systems. HGI may be more reasonable option in some cases)
- Preferred pumper program - better data exchange for interceptor maintenance,
- Ken expressed interest in attending a Committee meeting in the future for further discussion.
- The Committee discussed bringing Ken back for another training with an emphasis on locality codes enforcement staff.

**Action: Committee members should** reach out to codes enforcement staff to gauge interest in scheduling an additional grease interceptor workshop.

#### 5. FOG Certification Site & Commercial Outreach

HRPDC staff provided an update on HRFOG.com:

- Fixed error with FOG reports – locality reports were not filtering by the correct municipality (some were getting all results, others were getting other locality's results).
- HRPDC staff has just received a new data pull from the database and will begin making data corrections. Committee members are encouraged to review their reports and notify HRPDC staff of any discrepancies.

The Committee continued discussing updates to training materials:

- Updated FSE training guide – waiting on a couple more pictures
- The Committee recommended reviewing the FSE test at the February meeting.
- HRSD is currently starting the review process of the hauler training guide
- The Committee reviewed the HGI cleaning guide. The cleaning schedule directive was updated to be more generic.

- HRPDC staff should get quotes for translation of HGI cleaning guide.

**Action:** HRPDC staff will continue correcting data from HRFOG.com and get quotes for translation services.

## 6. **FOG MOA**

No updates from HRPDC staff at this time. HRPDC staff will continue to engage the Directors of Utilities in getting all localities to sign the MOA.

**Action:** HRPDC staff will work with Directors of Utilities to get approvals for the FOG MOA.

## 7. **Roundtable**

- Norfolk – interested in seeing inspection forms and best practices from other localities, reminded the Committee of idea to build a FOG/what not to flush game (Lindsey will send list of icons needed for game), outreach event with local Lions Club
- Sludge Judges – HRPDC staff will send out a last call for participation with the proposed budget based on quote of five percent discount.
- A subcommittee will meet after the formal Committee meeting to discuss the design of a HGI sludge judge that could be produced in house.

**Action:** HRPDC staff will collect quotes for purchasing FOG game magnets and boards.

## 8. **Staff Reports**

*Budget* - FY20 budget was reviewed.

Digital Media Report - HRPDC staff reviewed the digital marketing report for December. Hydroflask giveaway was the top performing Facebook post. The Water Awareness Committee plans to do additional Hydroflask giveaways throughout the year. Grease Grinch campaign was the top paid Facebook post for December.

New creative for What Not to Flush campaign - The Committee reviewed the two proposed scripts provided by Red Chalk Studios and selected the second version. The Committee also reviewed two video creatives approaches and selected the chalkboard graphic concept. Radio should be updated to reflect the video concept.

**Action:** HRPDC staff will work with Red Chalk Studios to develop new campaign creative.

**Next Meeting** - Tuesday, February 18, 2020 a.m. at HRPDC in Chesapeake.