

# **King County OSS Technical Advisory Committee meeting - April 23, 2024**

TAC Meeting #13

## **Attendees:**

Tanya McFarlanx  
Dustan Bunt  
MacFarlane, Tanya  
Pam McCain  
Baker, Jarone  
Brezina, Lara  
Cardwell, Daniel  
Hunsdorfer, Todd  
Jackson, Meagan  
Lee, Eunbi  
Marote, Corrina  
Schneider, Lynn  
Ken Miller  
David Winfrey  
jay.regenstreif  
Kelsey Taylor  
Floret Khosa  
Harry Muchineripi  
Kelly Hayden  
Neculae, Cleo (ECY)  
Faith Addicott

## **Meeting Summary:**

### **Meeting Purpose:**

Discuss proposed OSS code revisions and gather feedback from the Technical Advisory Committee.

### **Initial Discussion:**

The group reviewed a new website and public survey about upcoming code revisions. Pointed to the website for the survey and Eventbrite registration for public meetings. Updated the group on messaging about the code changes.

### **Key Takeaways:**

- The committee provided feedback on clarifying record drawing requirements, agreeing this is needed.
- There was extensive discussion around nitrogen reduction requirements for nonconforming lots, with the county needing to do further analysis on potential impacts before finalizing an approach.
- The county shared how they have reframed and shifted some of the proposed code revisions based on TAC feedback.

## **Topics:**

### **Clarifying Requirements for Record Drawings**

- The committee agreed this is needed, as quality record drawings are important for educating property owners and locating system components.
- Cost is a consideration, with a redraw costing around \$700 currently. Lower cost would be ideal but may not be feasible due to the time required.
- The county is looking for suggestions on specifying professional requirements for record drawings, to rule out "chicken scratch" submissions.
- Members discussed clarifying requirements for record drawings, considering perspectives from designers, installers and homeowners.
- Pam commented that this was so necessary, "when we're talking about educating the public about their septic tank, we need to know where it's at and the drain field."
- Lynn requests that the TAC provide words for the code revision language, help from the experts to clarify what they need.
- Meagan added: "one of the things that we are also considering under this topic is separating out record drawings and site sketches because we do need to make it very clear that what installers and maintainers are creating for time of sale or repairs, etc. are not record drawings."

### **Nitrogen Reduction Requirements for Nonconforming Lots**

- The state's revised minimum lot standards will require the county to adopt alternative minimum lot size options.
- The county's initial idea of applying its existing nitrogen reduction standards to all nonconforming lots would have a major impact.
- The county needs to do further analysis to determine financial impacts and how best to move forward in a way that balances environmental protection, development, and affordability.
- Members explored technical nitrogen requirements and their potential impacts, agreeing more analysis was needed on local soil conditions and grandfathered properties.
- Corrina went into details about this change and tried to clarify the requirement.
- Roger clarified that at the state level, the issue they have identified is density. Rogers clarified that if the OSS were approved during the previous requirements, then they are ok and don't need to meet the new requirements. The change is only for new approvals going forward.

- This explanation really helped to give Lynn clarity about the changes needed at the county level.

### **County Shares Reframed Code Revisions Based on TAC Feedback**

- The county walked through the list of potential code revisions, explaining where they have shifted language or reframed ideas based on TAC input.
- This included removing some proposals entirely, changing implementation details on others, and seeking more input from the community on those where TAC feedback was mixed.
- Members provided input and questions on outlined revision topics. The value of member expertise and diverse viewpoints was acknowledged.
- Pam suggested that new technicians spend a day in the field shadowing a designer, for experience
- Two members shared field experience perspectives to strengthen collaboration between regulators and practitioners serving homeowners.

### **Next Steps:**

- TAC members will sign up for individual 30 minute interviews with the county to share additional insights.
- The county will have follow-up conversations to clarify details around nitrogen reduction requirements.
- The county will finalize messaging in preparation for broader community outreach beginning in May.