MASE Newsletter

Maine Association of Site Evaluators

February, 2012

MASE Annual Meeting & Technical Seminar

March 6, 2012

Ramada Conference Center, Lewiston

On Tuesday, March 6 MASE will hold its Annual Meeting and Technical Seminar. The meeting will take place once again at the Ramada Conference Center, 490 Pleasant Street in Lewiston. Last year was our first at this venue, and members generally approved of the new location and of the Ramada's top-notch facilities. The meeting agenda, registration forms, and directions can be found inside this newsletter or from the MASE website http://www.mainese.com/.

Sharing memories and laughs at the 2010 Annual Meeting

While the site evaluation business has been slow, MASE has been busier than ever, providing opportunities for training, education, and interaction with your site evaluation peers. In addition to the traditional Annual Winter Meeting, Golf Tournament, and Field Day, MASE did the detailed planning and training at the Annual Septic Conference held during the summer in Richmond. This was attended by site evaluators, code enforcement officers, and a few installers and received rave reviews. This year's one day conference dates are August 9, 10, 15, and 16, 2012 at the Maine Rural Water Association Training Center, 254 Alexander Reed Road in Richmond. Once again MASE would like to give special thanks to Construction Consultants, Inc. and Eljen Corp for their generous donations which helped make these educational efforts possible.

At this year's annual meeting we are happy to offer more discussion topics. The morning and afternoon will each feature two concurrent sessions for folks to choose from. They are all good, so the problem is going to be deciding which to attend. We will also get an update on the status of the Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules, and our special keynote speaker will be Don Hoxie, who played a major role in creating the modern Subsurface Wastewater Program. We hope to see you all there!

What's inside....

Message From MASE President Dale Knapp

Hello MASE Members,

Happy New Year! I begin with the hope that 2011 was good year for you all. The phone certainly has not been ringing for many of us as often as we would like, but there were a few projects this fall. I even got involved in a subdivision this fall… I fell out of my chair when that call came in. Overall, MASE has had a very productive year. We continued our partnership with the Maine Rural Water Association and had our 2nd year of training at the facility in Richmond. We are now calling it the Maine Septic Conference; we will see if that sticks. We had an excellent variety of designers, installers, and inspectors in attendance, and one of the comments we commonly received was that attendees would have liked to attend every session. As was true during the first year of getting this off the ground, many thanks are owed to the board members, proctors, and others who volunteered their valuable time to help make this training a reality. We are excited about moving this conference forward in 2012 and increasing the level of education we can offer to attendees.

We also had a great field day in Monmouth with beneficial discussion on the pits, which brings me to my next topic. I want to thank you, the membership of MASE. I am continually impressed when members contact me to provide feedback on the organization and the practice of site evaluation. We truly are lucky to have so many dedicated and experienced members in our organization.

We have seen changes over the course of this year, and the rules are going to be modified again. We saw Mark Hyland join the department and unfortunately also saw him leave. Mark, I want to thank you for the work you did and your collaboration with the MASE board.

The board itself has also been highly active and supportive of our ever increasingly growing task agenda. I would like to recognize Steve Marcotte, Jim Logan, Bill O'Connor, Amy Jones, Richard Green, Bill Noble, Gary Fullerton, Earl Rafuse and Dave Studer. Dave Rocque also deserves a nod yet again for his continued support of our efforts to educate.

In 2012, there are several things to which we can all look forward.

First will be the annual meeting. This year we are offering break-out sessions that will run simultaneously. Attendees can take a look at the agenda and choose the session that interests them most. This will allow us to provide greater variety and opportunity while still keeping the conference to a one day event.

Next summer MASE is once again organizing the Maine Septic Conference in Richmond. We have made strides in setting up an agenda already, but there is certainly more room for folks to get involved. Please get in touch with me if you are interested, and I hope to see more of you there. The training provides a great opportunity for us as site evaluators to interact with each other, inspectors, and installers to ultimately get systems in the ground keep our clients happy…..well, if we can get some clients to call, but I digress. Following this, we will again have our field day after the exam. I have enjoyed the lively discussion during previous field day events, and I know there will be more of that to come.

In closing, thanks again for the opportunity to lead such a great organization. It is an honor to serve and support. I encourage any of you with ideas and constructive criticism to get ahold of me by phone, email, snail mail, or in person. I want to know how MASE can better serve you and continue to promote quality work, maintain a voice in Augusta for the profession, and educate both the most experienced site evaluator as well as someone who is just getting started. I look forward to another active and exciting year for MASE in 2012.

MAINE ASSOCIATION OF SITE EVALUATORS

ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT
2011

Cash on Hand as of 12/31/10	$	5845.55
Fidelity Mutual Funds as of 12/31/10	$	10,313.60
Total Assets as of 12/31/10	**$**	**15,688.18**
Income		
Annual Meeting Registration	$	3390.00
Annual Meeting Vendor Fees	$	2450.00
Annual Dues	$	4715.00
Golf Tournament	$	345.00
MWRA Training Center Vendor Fees	$	300.00
Eljen/Construction Consultants Donation for training	$	3000.00
Fall Field Day	$	140.00
T-shirts	$	536.00
Hats	$	5.00
Expenses		
Annual Meeting	$	5,697.00
Gift (to outgoing president)	$	175.25
Envirothon Donation	$	1,000.00
Engineers Without Borders Donation	$	1,000.00
Golf Tournament	$	422.78
MWRA Training (proctors, supplies, food)	$	3600.00
Fall Workshop	$	736.88
Insurance	$	605.00
Corporation Filing	$	35.00
T-Shirts	$	1237.16
Website	$	115.35
Miscellaneous (copies, postage)	$	309.33
Bank Fees	$	6.00
Period of 01/01/11-12/31/11 Total Income:	$	14,881.00
-Total Expenses:	$	14,939.75
	$	-58.75
Cash on Hand as of 12/31/11	**$**	**5,786.80**
Fidelity Mutual Fund Balance as of 12/31/11	$	10,379.74
(+ $66.14 from 12/31/10)		
Total Assets as of 12/31/11	**$**	**16,166.54**

MASE Annual Meeting
March 6, 2012
Ramada Inn
490 Pleasant Street, Lewiston, ME

7:45 – 8:30	Registration, vendor and display set up, coffee
8:30 – 8:45	Opening remarks – Dale Knapp – MASE President
8:45 – 9:15	Rules update – Dave Braley - DEH
9:15 – 10:30	Concurrent sessions *"Pumps/Tanks Use and Issues" (Richard Green Coordinating)* • *Will Eisworth – American Concrete* • *Matt Engleman – American Concrete* • *Paul Beers – Precast Concrete of Maine* • *Tim Schoppe* *"Site Evaluator Ethics" (Bill O'Connor Coordinating)* • *Ethics as Defined in the Code - Dave Braley – DEH* • *Case Studies – Bill O'Connor*
10:30 – 11:00	Break / vendor displays
11:00 – 12:00	Business meeting and election of officers (Dale Knapp Coord.)
12:00 – 1:30	Lunch with the keynote speaker: Don Hoxie (introduction by Albert Frick) *"A Look Back on Where the Code Came From and Why it Was Written"*
1:30 – 2:45	Concurrent sessions *"Topics in Advanced Wastewater System Treatment" (Steve Marcotte Coord.)* • *High Strength Wastewater – Steve Marcotte* • *Wastewater Distribution after the AWT – Jim Logan* • *Operation and Maintenace of AWT's – Bob Johnson* *"Composting Toilets/Poplar Stream Falls Hut" (Dale Knapp Coord.)* • *Joe Ducharme – Clivus New England* • *Dutch Demshaw – Maine Huts and Trails* • *John Orcutt – Maine Huts and Trails*
2:45 – 3:00	Break / vendor displays
3:00 – 3:45	"*Practical Problems We Have Known*" – Mark Hyland

MAINE ASSOCIATION OF SITE EVALUATORS

2012 Membership Form & Annual Meeting

MASE NEEDS YOU!

Your membership is important and our budget depends on your dues! All MASE memberships expire in February. You can join now and be assured of another year of representation of your interests by MASE. We are working to keep license fees down, regulations reasonable, host quality field seminars, an interesting annual meeting & informative newsletters.

(Please complete a separate form for each individual)

☐ **Regular Membership** $25
(Maine Licensed Site Evaluator)

or

☐ **Associate Membership** $15
(Unlicensed individuals with an interest in the goals and purpose of the Association)

☐ **Annual Meeting – Tuesday, March 6, 2012** Member: $20
(includes lunch) or Non-member: $30

** Please Register by March 2nd to reserve a meal. No refunds are available after March 2nd. MASE T-shirts will be available for $10 at the door while supplies last.*

Make Checks Payable to: ***MASE***

Total Enclosed: _____

Mail To: Amy Jones, Treasurer
3330 Bennoch Road
Alton, ME 04468 jonesamyn@yahoo.com

Name: _____ License Number: _____

Company: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone:_____ E-mail: _____

www.mainese.com **info@mainese.com**

21st Annual MASE Golf Tournament Results

By Dave Kamila

MASE held the 21st Annual Golf Tournament on June 17th at the Meadows Golf Course in Litchfield. I'm not sure if it's due to the continuing sluggish economy or folks getting older and suffering injuries such as sore shoulders, bad backs or broken legs, which unfortunately kept three of our regulars on the sidelines this year; but despite great weather we only had 13 players this year. As usual the course was in terrific shape thanks to Ron Bernard and his dedicated crew. Everyone enjoyed a great round of golf and a fantastic lunch as always compliments of Blake Johnston and Infiltrator Systems.

The winning team consisting of; Dana Altvater, Sam Altvater and Andy Pearce came in at -4. Second place honors went to the team of Bruce Johnson, Chris Jameson and Dick Babine at even par.

Closest to the pin winners were: #3- Dana Altvater 52'-0" (no one else made it on the green); #7- Dave Kamila 13'-0" and Mark Hampton 34'-11"; #15- Andy Pearce 26'-0" and Rod Stewart 50'-0"; #17- Dana Altvater 43'-5" (no one else made it on the green).

This year's Longest Drive honors went to Andy Pearce (no women showed up this year).

I also want to say a special thanks to Bruce Johnson and Gary Fullerton who helped make all the arrangements to make this event possible.

I look forward to an improving economy and seeing many more of you next year.

4th Northeast Onsite Wastewater Short Course
&
NOWRA's 21st Annual
Technical and Education Conference

It's all water - Non-traditional water and wastewater management

April 2-5, 2012
Biltmore Hotel, Providence, RI

Featuring:

- *The NOWRA Onsite Systems A to Z Program*
- *Advances in management of onsite infrastructure*
- *Technological innovation*
- *A Trade Fair featuring a Who's Who of industry suppliers*
- *Focus on key challenges facing Northeast states*
- *Field Trips – 3 states, 3 unique perspectives*

Visit www.nowra.org for more information

Bag Check: What S.E.s Are Carrying Around

by Bill Noble, S.E. 75

While some may clients think otherwise, we all know there is certainly more to a site evaluation than simply digging a hole or scuffing your heel on the ground. Here are what some site evaluators are bringing to job sites to do their work:

From Richard Green, S.E. 195

Spade
Soil auger
4' metal probe
300' foot tapes, 2 or 3
Wire stakes
4' crowbar
Tripod & level
Leveling rod
Hammer
GPS
Bug spray
Compass
Pop level
Folding rule
Screwdrivers, to stake down end of tape & scrape soil pits
Field data book
Mechanical pencils, several
Colored flagging tape
Permanent marker
Nails
Scientific calculator (at least need square roots)
Digital camera (can be used as a field photocopier or to document conditions)
Munsell book
Plumbing code
Proprietary device documents
USGS maps (on my phone)
Fill extension calculator (on my phone)
Town tax maps, if available
Eyeglasses
First aid kit

From Dave Moyse, S.E. 264

Hard hat and steel toed boots
Sharpshooter and hand auger (Backhoe requested, if suspect shallow-to-bedrock)
Tile probe
Field vest – blaze orange, "Pro" 10-pocket, cordura nylon or nylon mesh (seasonal)
Three or four mechanical pencils and pens
Two black permanent markers
4" x 6" ring bound notebook
Silva "Ranger" compass
"Suunto" clinometer, with angle and percent slopes scales, plus pop level
Pocket scale
6' folding wooden rule and 25' carpenter's tape
Phillips head screwdriver and/or putty knife
Small spray water bottle
Pocket knife
Few rolls of flagging, different colors, vinyl, "Arctic wt". - 4.5 mil
Bottle of "bug dope", including anti-tick spray
Small, pocket-size first aid kit, which includes "Benadryl" tablets for sting reaction
Whistle on lanyard
Several cartons of flagging, different colors and cans of fluorescent paint
Two 200-foot fiberglass tapes
Laser level, tripod and level rod (graduated in tenths of feet)
GPS unit, "Trimble" submeter
Can of benchmark (ERP) galvanized nails 16d common
Bundle of 4-foot long hardwood grade stakes
Two hand-held sledge hammers (5 lb. size)
Axe, Swedish brush axe, and chain saw
Cell phone
Camera
Extra clothing
Flashlights – Pocket and spot light
First Aid kit
Rope and pull strap
Bottle of water or "Gatorade"

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From Bill Noble. S.E. 75

Spade
Hand auger
5’ heavy iron pry bar
Putty knife
6’ carpenter’s rule
Pop level
200’ measuring tape
Phillips screwdriver
Small GPS unit
Flagging
Wire flags
Nails for ERP
Compass
Spray bottle with water (for dry soil conditions)
Small hammer
Axe and hatchet
Chainsaw (if aware in advance of possible need)
Field notebook and field notes sheets
Several pens and permanent marker
Hunter orange vest and cap (in season)
Insect repellent
Small scale rule
Calculator
Hat for sun protection
Munsell soil color charts
Proprietary device manuals
Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules
Maine Atlas & Gazetteer
NRCS soil survey map of area
Bottle of water or juice

From Steve Howell, S.E. 213

Soil auger
Sharpshooter spade
Tile probe
Crowbar
Sledge hammer
Brush clipping shears
Hand saw
Sharp and dull knives
200-foot cloth tape
6-foot wooden rule
Leveling rod
Tripod and level
Clinometer
Compass
Hand lens
Hand held GPS
Munsell color book
Carpenter’s level
Plumb bob
Nails for control points
Flagging, caution flagging, flagging
1” diameter wooden stakes,
Wire flags
Survey marking paint
Tree diameter tape
Engineers scale
Compass protractor
Safety glasses
Hard hat
Soil/water thermometer,
Calculator
Hand mirror
Flashlight (for looking in tanks)
5-gallon bucket (for estimating flow of fixtures)
Safety vest,
Disposable gloves,
First aid kit,
Rubber boots
Work gloves
Sample bags
Steel-toed boots
Write-in-rain field book,
Camera
Dye tablets
Water testing kit
Water bottle for textures and colors in dry weather or dry soils
Bug spray
Change of dry clothes
Rain gear
Extra batteries for all electronic devices
Variety of writing implements including pencils and markers for flagging
NRCS published soil map for the area
USGS topo map of the area
Tax map or survey plan
Copy of plumbing code
Manufacturer’s brochures of various proprietary devices

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD AND RURAL RESOURCES
STATE HOUSE STATION # 28
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE POLICY ON:

ESTABLISHMENT OF VEGETABLE GARDENS ON SEPTIC SYSTEM DISPOSAL FIELDS

January 12, 2012

While there are no rules or regulations concerning the placement of vegetable gardens on or adjacent to septic system disposal fields, it is the policy of the Maine Department of Agriculture to discourage the practice. Following are the reasons for this policy:

Background:

Most septic system disposal fields designed since 1974 are installed either partly or completely above the original ground surface. This is because most of our soils in Maine have a shallow seasonal groundwater table, hardpan and/or bedrock. The bottom of the disposal field must be elevated above any "limiting factor" in order for the waste water to drain into the soil and be renovated. For the most part, fill material over the stone or other components (plastic or concrete chambers, fabric wrapped pipe, geo-textile sand filters, etc) which comprise the main body of the disposal field is usually 8" – 12" deep. Generally, only the top 4" of this fill material has silt or clay and organic matter in it. The lower part of this fill is supposed to be a gravelly coarse sand material. This is to allow for the free exchange of air into the disposal field so that microbes can quickly attack and renovate the waste water. Below the fill material, and immediately above the stone or other disposal field components is a layer of compressed hay or filter fabric. The purpose of this compressed hay or filter fabric is to prevent fine soil particles from the fill material above entering voids in the stone or other devices. The stone or other devices main function is to provide storage capacity for the wastewater which is usually generated faster than the soil can absorb it (people usually generate most of the waste water in the morning before work and school and in the evening after coming home from work). If the voids in the stone or other devices become filled with soil, they will not be able to store the waste water causing a septic system failure.

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1. The most important reason you should not create a vegetable garden above or immediately adjacent to a septic system disposal field is because of the potential for the plants to become contaminated with human pathogens. The vegetable garden plants will send roots down in search of water and nutrients; neither of which will be found in the gravelly sand fill material. If the roots come in contact with waste water, they can take up pathogens such as viruses which can then infect the person eating the plants.

2. In a brand new septic system disposal field, the waste water level in the disposal field is usually quite low. Over time, however, as the disposal field matures, ponding of waste water can be expected. This is due to the partial clogging of the soil pores by particles escaping from the septic tank and the living and dead bodies of microorganisms. The thicker this clogging layer is the higher in the disposal field the waste water level will be. The waste water level will also rise during heavy use events or as a family grows up and/or adds more members. Eventually, the waste water levels in a disposal field will likely be high enough for even shallow rooted plants to come in contact with it.

3. Water (including waste water) will "wick" up into soil due to capillary attraction. If waste water rises high enough in the disposal field to come in contact with the fill material on top of it, capillary attraction could cause the waste water to wick up to as high as 18" above, depending on the texture of the fill. This is also why no vegetable garden should be placed on a disposal field fill extension, especially near the disposal field. There may be no wicking up to the top of the disposal field or fill extension material at first but it may occur as the disposal field matures.

4. Generally, the soil over the top of a septic system disposal field is very droughty, particularly soon after the disposal field is installed, and therefore not suitable for the growing of a vegetable garden. This would create the need for watering of the plants in order for them to prosper. Adding water to the top of a disposal field, particularly if the disposal field was only marginally functional, could cause it to fail.

5. Roto-tilling the top of a disposal field could result in damage to the compressed hay or filter fabric. If the compressed hay or filter fabric is damaged, it could allow soil particles to migrate down into the stone or other devices in the disposal field reducing the waste water holding capacity.

6. Placing additional fill over the top of a disposal field, in order to create a safe zone for vegetable plants to grow is also not a good idea. The additional fill material might "suffocate" the disposal field by making it more difficult for the free exchange of air. An anaerobic disposal field is much more likely to clog up and fail than an aerobic one. In addition, placing the additional fill material on the disposal system could result in damage to disposal field components by heavy equipment.

The most suitable plants to grow on top of septic system disposal fields and fill extensions is grass. It is also permissible to grow flowers but only if the soil is not roto-tilled and minimal watering is done. No plants that have woody roots should be planted on the disposal field or fill extensions since the roots might clog up pipes and other devices in the disposal field. If you do not want vegetation to grow over your disposal field, it is permissible to cover the bare soil with bark mulch.

This article was submitted by David Rocque, LSE #154. David is the State Soil Scientist with the Maine Department of Agriculture.

2011 MASE Field Day

by Dale Knapp, LSE #386

The 2011 MASE field day took place on September 30, 2011 at a site that has been seen before. We returned to Highmoor Farm in Monmouth the day after the Site Evaluator Exam. For those of you who were in attendance we had great weather and some good pits. We took a slightly different approach this year and handed out the expert consensus at the start of the day. We were trying a new approach to provide folks in the pits with the information while they were in the hole, so to speak, so they would not have to remember each pit at the close of the day. We had some pits with some drainage problems and an enjoyable day over all. We concluded the day with some great discussion by the old farmhouse under the trees of results and opinions over just the right amount of pizza. The discussion that occurred that day relating to the 9" rule and the table that is now part of the subsurface rules helped us realize that more work was needed on how to apply and manage this new change in the code. This will be a component of our summer training with hands on work in an agricultural field. I expect we will also have this as a topic at the 2012 fall field day. Hope to see you all there.

A Look Back: The Non-Discharge System

by Bill Noble, S.E. 75

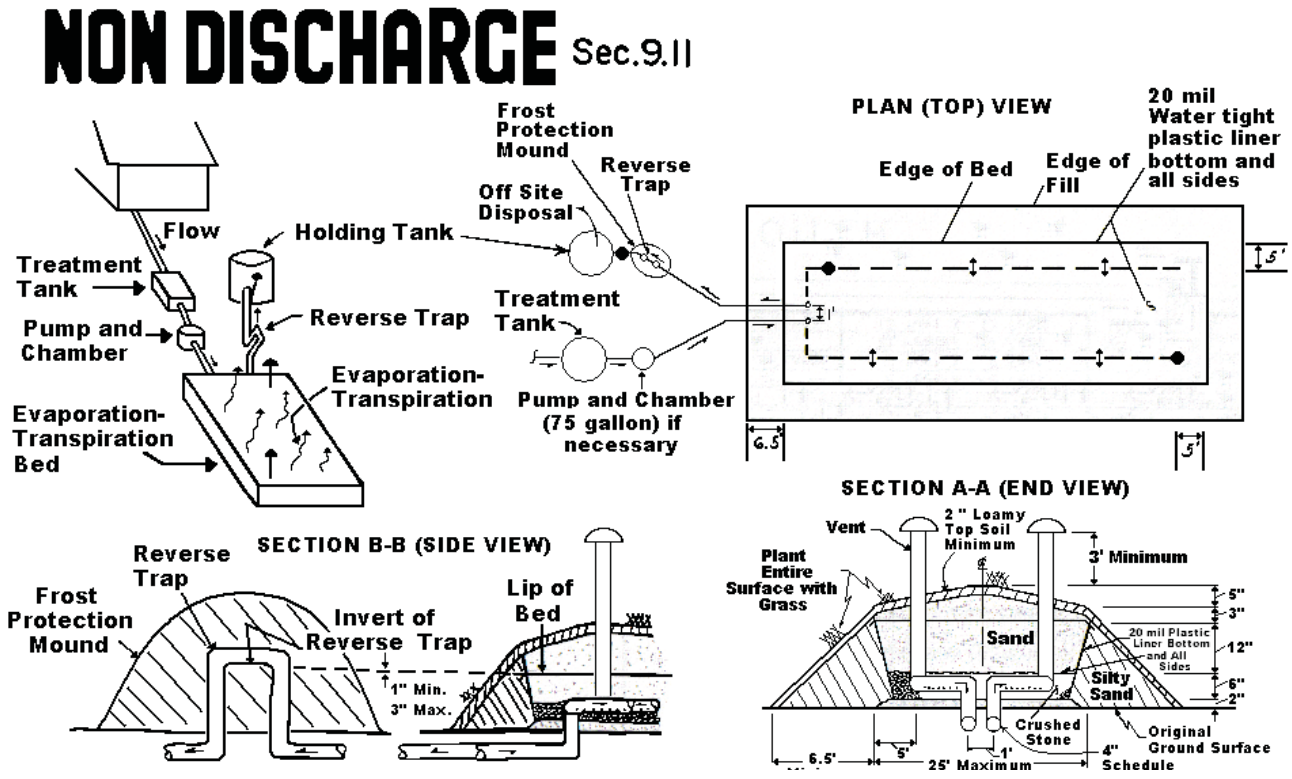
Imagine a time when no single-family lot failed a site evaluation. This was pretty much the case in 1974, when state regulations (then called the Maine Plumbing Code, Part II) did away with the percolation test and established the procedure of soil observation and description with which we are all familiar today. The 1974 Plumbing Code also introduced some new types of subsurface wastewater disposal systems which were quite a departure from the trusty old inverted V-notch trenches and cesspools being used back then.

A "subsurface absorption area", as a disposal field was referred to in the Code at that time, could only be installed on soils with a depth of 15" or more to seasonal groundwater or bedrock. But all hope was not lost. For sites that couldn't take a regular subsurface absorption area, a "non-discharge" system was the answer. A non-discharge system was even allowed at sites with seasonal groundwater ponding on the surface, provided the area wasn't a floodplain, or considered to be a swamp, marsh, or bog, the last three terms being undefined in the Code and subject to individual interpretation.

The non-discharge system consisted of a septic tank, followed by an evaporation-transpiration bed, and then a holding tank to collect wastewater overflow from the bed. A reverse trap, covered by a frost protection mound, was specified between the bed and the holding tank. The Code required the evaporation-transpiration bed to be installed on existing grade, with the bottom and sides completely sealed off with a plastic liner. Reduction in wastewater volume was to be accomplished by flow-reducing fixtures, and by the process of "evaporation and transpiration", optimistically expected to occur at the bed.

Since effective evaporation and transpiration take place in Maine only during the summer months, the non-discharge system was doomed to never function as originally envisioned. It essentially was no more than an elaborate and expensive holding tank system. For a year-round home, costs for the pumping-out and disposal of "unevaporated" and "untranspirated" wastewater could really pile up.

The DHHS Subsurface Wastewater Unit suggests that few, if any, of these systems were ever constructed. Because of its impracticality and unpopularity, the non-discharge system was dropped as a design option sometime in the early 1980s, according to the DHHS-SWU website.



The Non-Discharge System. Image adapted from Sec. 9.11 of the State of Maine Plumbing Code, Part II, July 1974.

Site Evaluation 2012: Many New Rules, But Many New Tools

by Richard Green, SE 195

Some of you can remember when the Subsurface Disposal Rule book was small enough to carry around in an oversized vest pocket. At that time there were a lot less rules and a lot more jobs to keep track of.

Site Evalutors can reap benefits from the latest technological "toys".

That is hardly the case anymore. Not only is the rulebook longer and more complex, but there are many more design alternatives to consider, all with their own unique advantages and limitations, as well as local ordinances, building restrictions, and a plethora of other factors that can impact the site options.

Thanks to the internet and other modern technology, it is possible to do considerable research before you visit a site. This article will discuss some of the information that is available. Most of the information will be found by searching the internet, but a couple of other resources will also be discussed.

Here are a few resources of use to Site Evaluators:

Town Websites

- Town Office Address, Code Official's Name and Number, Hours of Operation
- Downloadable Tax Maps
- Zoning Maps
- Zoning and Local Ordinances
- Assessment Information

DHHS, Division of Environmental Health

- Contact Information
- Online Rules
- HHE Forms
- Lists of Site Evaluators, Plumbing Inspectors, Certified Contractors and Septic Inspectors

Department of Environmental Protection

- Natural Resource Protection Act (NRPA) rules and permits
- Overboard Discharge Information
- Small Community Program Grant Program

Manufacturer's & Supplier's Websites

- Design Manuals
- Downloadable Images and CAD Objects
- Dimensions and Specifications
- Price Lists

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GIS Mapping Programs

The premium computer GIS mapping program is Arcview. Ir is a nice program and carries a hefty price tag. There are some fine lower cost or free programs available as well. The free version of Arcview is called ArcGIS Explorer, and it is tied into some nice free imagery from its makers. Google Earth has both paid and free versions. Maps, aerial photos, and other information such as public water supplies and natural resources are available through the Maine GIS website, and from the Department of Environmental Protection site, and can be loaded into these GIS programs. Both Arcview and Google Earth allow some types of GPS data to be loaded onto the map overlays and can be handy for locating general features.

For locating properties and viewing aerial photographs, the standard browser map programs such as Mapquest are readily available and provide good information quickly and cheaply. Details such as topography and property lines are available in some areas.

Soils and Flood Data

Two other useful web sites are the Web Soil Survey where you can create printable soils maps, and the FEMA site, which contains flood hazard maps.

Drafting and Publishing Software

Most site evaluators produce at least a portion of their HHE forms using printed sheets. All the forms are available from the DEH in various formats including Microsoft Word and Autocad. A terrific program called Septicad is available for purchase which is tailored for drafting site evaluations. It has a moderate cost but requires that a CAD program such as Autocad be running, which can greatly increase the cost if it must be purchased as well.

Smart Phones

If you have a smart phone with the ability to run applications and connect to the internet, there are several apps that are valuable to the site evaluator. Most smart phones can double as GPS units and provide much of the same information. Applications such as Google Maps can actually display your location on a basemap in the field. There are several apps intended for hiking that also will show your location on standard USGS 7.5 topo maps. My favorite is called Trimble Outdoors, which allows users to save map images on the phone to use in areas without cell coverage. This can help you determine whether a waterbody is depicted on the USGS map or not. Smart phones can also store and display documents such as manufacturer's specifications, design tables, and fill calculations.

These are a few of the resources available to site evaluators who want to use them. They are nice to have and can be extremely helpful. In the end, though, site evaluators will still have to use their observations, knowledge, and judgment to determine the best solution for a particular site.

MASE Annual Meeting 2011

MASE held its 2011 meeting at a new location, the Ramada Conference Center in Lewiston, after several successful years at the Millenium in Palmyra. Both meeting sites worked well for MASE and were easily accessible, but the Ramada has a few additional options, such as extra space for concurrent sessions, which will be offered at this year's meeting. Reviews of the new site were generally favorable. Reviews of the presented topics were mixed. At least one session, the update of the Rules, presented the most drama, as was to be expected. As a result, it was proposed that this year we combine the Rule Update with a tag team wrestling event to settle the disputed issues.

MASE Newsletter

February 2012

MAINE ASSOCIATION OF SITE EVALUATORS

Newsletter Editor Richard Green

Contributors

Amy Jones
Dave Kamila
Dale Knapp
Bill Noble
David Rocque

Send articles, photos, news, and other publication items to:
Richard Green, richard.a.green@roadrunner.com
(207)685-8141 ***MASE website: www.mainese.com***

2011 MASE Board Officers

Dale Knapp .....President
William O'Connor ..... Vice President
Amy Jones..... Treasurer
Richard Green ..... Secretary
Gary Fullerton.....Ex Officio
James Logan..... Director
Steve Marcotte ..... Director
Bill Noble..... Director

MASE Calendar

Meetings, trainings, and other events of interest to MASE Members

March 6, 2012	MASE Annual Meeting and Technical Seminar, Lewiston
March 16, 2012	MAPSS Annual Meeting, Portland
March 29, 2012	MAWS Annual Meeting and Winter Conference, Hallowell
April 2-5, 2012	NOWRA Technical and Education Conference, Providence RI
April 25, 2012	Site Evaluator Written Exam, Augusta
June 15, 2012	Annual MASE Golf Tournament, Litchfield.
Aug 9,10,15,16	Annual MASE/MRWA Septic Conference, Richmond.

Directions to the Ramada Conference Center

490 Pleasant Street, Lewiston, Maine

From North:

Take Interstate 95 South to Exit 80. Continue straight ahead. Follow signs for Industrial Park. At traffic light, go straight. Hotel and conference center is on the left.

From South:

Take Interstate 95 North to Exit 80. At stop sign, turn left. Follow signs for Industrial Park. At traffic light, go straight. Hotel and conference center is on the left.