

Health officials table decision to ban land application of sewage

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In an effort to protect local water supplies and crops from potential sewage contamination, the Logan County Board of Health conducted a public hearing during a regular meeting Wednesday afternoon and discussed a potential countywide ban on the land application of domestic septic tank waste.

Two local septage haulers voiced strong opposition to the ban. The board tabled its decision until the next meeting at 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 2. Board member Terrance Stolly cast the sole vote against tabling the decision.

“Much of the land in Logan County isn’t suitable for any kind of sewage application because it’s close to the groundwater, without enough filtration,” Logan County Health Commissioner Dr. Boyd Hoddinott said to explain why the health district seeks the ban.

“Or, it has a high-perched water table, which means groundwater, for several weeks of the year, is too close to the surface.”

Many areas of the county also have soil considered poor for filtering sewage.

“The second part of this is, when it runs off, it contaminates the groundwater,” Dr. Hoddinott said. “The new sewage laws the state is passing is clamping down on this. If you have a sewage plant to take it to, why not use it? Why let a hauler dump it on the ground?”

Recent nationwide recalls of tomatoes and spinach are believed to have been caused by the application of sewage or animal waste, Dr. Hoddinott said. In each case, he said, people became ill and some died, he said.

“The other part is the smell and the aesthetic view. We get complaints every year about that,” the health commissioner related.

“We’re going to have to do it (the ban),” board member Bill Hines said. “They (the state) are going to force us to. I don’t see where we have any other choice but to adopt a resolution to ban (the land application of the sewage).”

Local septage haulers Bruce Lile and Clifford Kelley spoke against the ban. Mr. Lile argued hauling septage to a wastewater treatment facility would cost an extra \$45. That cost, he

said, would be passed on to customers.

“You might want to do a little research,” Mr. Lile told the board. “We can’t run everything into one spot and think we’re doing any good.”

Currently, the Indian Lake Wastewater Treatment Facility in Russells Point is the only facility in Logan County that is able and willing to accept the septage.

In other environmental action, the board:

- granted Phil Burkholder a variance to place a sewage system at a depth less than 12 inches to a perched seasonal high water table to temporarily place at a manufactured home for his grandmother at 8164 N. U.S. Route 68;
- granted Harold Timothy McGlone a variance to place a well at 14251 Oakwood Ave., Lakeview, five feet from the property line and road;
- granted Mike Bogard a variance to place a well nine feet from a public road and five feet from the house at 11164 Newland Drive, Lakeview, with the condition he places concrete posts to protect the well casing;
- granted Jeffrey Bline of Springfield a variance to install a privy for a remote hunting cabin at 1081 N. County Road 32;
- granted James Montgomery of Columbus a variance to install a well at 10524 Manatee Drive, Huntsville, 25 feet from a public roadway;

- granted Debbie Garlock of Bellefontaine a variance to install a well at 7933 Hickory Ave., Russells Point, less than 10 feet from a foundation and property line;
- granted Ron Kimmel a variance to place a well two feet from the property line at 8159 Blue Heron Cove, Huntsville;
- ordered Dolgencorp Inc., licensee of Dollar General, to correct repeated violations by replacing and repairing missing and stained ceiling tiles and a leak in the ceiling within 21 days at the store at 884 E. Sandusky Ave.; and to correct repeated violations by capping an open waste pipe in the rear storeroom at the store at 338 E. Columbus Ave. within seven days;
- ordered Cliff Wells, 7869 County Road 54, Lewistown, to remove an estimated 24 dozen bags of garbage with evidence of rodent infestation from his garage within three days of receipt of order;
- ordered James Matthews, 14031 Rosewood Ave., Lakeview, to clear debris covering the site of a mobile home demolition at 11497 Blackhawk Path, Lakeview, within 14 days; and
- ordered Nancy Robinson, 11233 Pocahontas Path, Lakeview, to cease open burning and remove solid waste within 14 days.