

# On the Ground Realities for Septic Systems

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# Working w/what we have

- Using all the tools to address the situation
- Practical approach
  - Real vs. Perceived
    - “Not my problem” approach
    - Willing participants
  - Funding
    - Stimulus Package
    - Partnerships
- Crawl, walk, run
  - Knee jerk reactions

Onsite is a  
VIABLE/AFFORDABLE/PERMANENT  
option

Management is the KEY!!!!

# What's Out There?

- Rules/Legislation
- Technology
- Management
  - Current Code
  - EPA Guidelines
  - National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA) Model Code
  - Consortium of Institutes for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment (CIDWT)
  - Florida Onsite Wastewater Association (FOWA)
  - Best Management Practices (BMPs)

# 64E-6

- Provides management for
  - Aerobic Treatment Units (ATU)
  - Performance Based Treatment Systems (PBTS)
  - Innovative Systems

# EPA Guidelines

- **Voluntary** National Guidelines for Management of Onsite and Clustered (Decentralized) Wastewater Treatment Systems

# Management Models

- **MANAGEMENT MODEL 1: HOMEOWNER AWARENESS**
- **MANAGEMENT MODEL 2: MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS**
- **MANAGEMENT MODEL 3: OPERATING PERMITS**
- **MANAGEMENT MODEL 4: RME OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**
- **MANAGEMENT MODEL 5: RME OWNERSHIP**

# Consortium of Institutes for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment (CIDWT)

- The Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Glossary
- National O & M Service Provider Program
  - FOWA CEU Course
    - 18 hours
      - 3 day
      - 2 day

# Florida Onsite Wastewater Association (FOWA)

- Education
- Public Relations
- Governmental Relations
- Technical Resource

# Best Management Practices (BMPs)

- Focus on “sound” engineering/science practices
- Consider all impacts
  - Environmental
  - Public Health
  - Economics
- MOTIVATION????????????

# Putting it all together

- It's like a marriage
  - No single solution
    - Centralized
    - Decentralized
      - Cluster
      - Single

**MARRIAGES TAKE WORK!!!!**

# Public Perception

- Buy In
  - Enforcing rules/legislation is difficult if the public doesn't believe in the cause
  - Hard to make it a “cost” item when it's been free

**FOCUS**

**WATER QUALITY/QUANTITY**

# Permitting/Implementing

- Sculpt what's available to fit Florida's needs
  - Conventional thru PBTS
- Don't be afraid to think outside the box
- It really hasn't been working all that great over all these years!!!
- Change is SLOW and PAINFUL!!
  - Be aware this is a dynamic transition
  - Make SMART changes as necessary



# Common Sense Approach

A wise man once said “In order to use common sense we must have a common goal”

OUR GOAL

Protecting Florida's Waters