



**SEWAGE APPEALS MEETING
1/7/2026 Minutes**

Present: Thaddeus Hackworth (Berrien County Corporate Counsel & Sewage Appeals Board Chairperson), Ray Matejczyk (Sewage Appeals Board), Alex Ott (Berrien County Commissioner District 9 & Sewage Appeals Board), Guy Miller (Berrien County Health Officer), Phillina Rios (Environmental Health Supervisor), Chris Nagy (Environmental Health Registered Sanitarian), Lindsay McNair (Environmental Health Program Support Specialist), John Johnson (Consultant for Owner/Buyer), Kameron Morris (Realtor for Appellant), Rebecca Mullikin-Davis (Appellant), Jeffrey Davis (Appellant), Richard Janke (Landowner)

Absent: Dr. Wayne Gleiber (Sewage Appeals Board), Joseph Taylor (Sewage Appeals Board)

10:02 am: Meeting called to order by Thaddeus Hackworth

Approval of Agenda: Ray Matejczyk made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, second by Alex Ott, motion passed and carried.

Introductions: Those present made introductions

Approval of December 3, 2025 Minutes: Alex Ott made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Ray Matejczyk, motion passed and carried.

Sewage Appeal #1: Jeffrey & Rebecca Davis, 2887 Coloma Rd., 13 Acres, Parcel ID #: 11-10-0022-0014-02-8 & 11-10-0022-0014-09-5, Hagar Twp., Sec. #22

Berrien County Health Department Presentation: On October 21, 2025, the Berrien County Health department received an application for the property located at 2287 Coloma Rd. On November 3, 2025, Chris Nagy made a site visit to the property and performed soil borings. The soil borings revealed a water table in the upper 2 ft, around 18 inches below grade. Chris Nagy contacted the owners with his findings who then contacted and consulted with John Johnson. John Johnson reached out to the Berrien County Health Department to schedule a second site visit to test a different area on the property. On November 19, 2025, the Berrien County Health Department met with John Johnson at the property to conduct soil borings in a different location on the property. The soil borings, again, revealed the water table at 18 inches.

Consultant/Owner Presentation: John Johnson described the parts/functions of the system and the purposes behind those parts/functions. The proposed system is an “Allegan Mound” and is designed for a 4-bedroom home with 20 ft. by 60 ft. drain bed with a 7:1 slope. The system will consist of (2) 1,000-gallon septic tanks and (1) 500-gallon dosing chamber equipped with an effluent pump. All (3) risers will have safety netting. There will be 2-1/2 ft. of clean sand fill above original grade giving a finish grade of 4-1/2 ft. There will roughly be 50 ft. of 1-1/2-inch or 2-inch pressure line going from the pump chamber to the drain bed. No garbage grinder and no basement sump pump will be included.

Discussion among Board Members, the BCHD, and Consultant/Owner: The effect of frost/freezing, placement of driveway, and maintaining of isolation distances were discussed. The BCHD had no objections to the proposed plan.

Thaddeus Hackworth made a motion to approve a system for a 4-bedroom dwelling with no garbage grinder. The system will consist of two 1,000-gallon septic tanks with the second tank equipped with effluent filter and a 500-gallon dosing tank with visual alarm. All risers will have safety netting. These tanks will feed a 1-1/2 inch or 2-inch pressure line leading to a 20' x 60' Allegan mound drain bed with 7:1 slope. There will be 2-1/2 ft. of clean sand fill with finish grade to be 4-1/2 ft. above original grade. Tile lines to be set 3 ft. apart with 4-inch perforation. Reserve area as shown on plans to remain undisturbed. This approval is contingent upon a successful pre-construction meeting as well as passing all other customary inspections of the Berrien County Health Department. This approval is contingent upon construction of the mound during favorable weather conditions, dry soil, and protection of the absorption field and reserve area from compaction. All isolation distances and setback requirements must be met.

Motion was second by Ray Matejczyk, motion passed and carried.

10:32 am Meeting adjourned

Submitted by: L. McNair 1/12/26