

## PLATTE COUNTY

### PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

NOVEMBER 20, 2000

The Platte County Planning & Zoning Commission met on the above date at 7:00 P.M. in the Platte County Courtroom. The following board members were present, Kenneth Kennedy, Interim Director; Chairman Jay Collins, Bill Klein, Tina Willis, Marty Shepard and Clerk of the Board, Glenda Gray. Absent was Stan Rieb. Special guest speakers were Debbie Thomas from the Environmental Protection Agency, and Lou Harmon and Gary Beach from the Department of Environmental Quality.

Ms. Thomas gave a slide presentation on Animal Feeding Operations (AFO) explaining what constitutes an AFO. An AFO can be determined in any area that does not normally sustain vegetation growth and can be for a minimal head of livestock. A CAFO or Confined Animal Feeding Operation is having more than 1,000 animal units; or 300 to 1000 animal units and discharge to surface water; or under 300 animal units and designated on a case-by-case basis. The EPA's job is to issue National Pollution Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) Permits for all CAFO's and to oversee a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan not only for CAFO's but for AFO's.

Mr. Harmon gave a slide presentation on swine feeding and cattle feeding regulations. He informed the board that swine facility applications that were approved prior to 2-28-1997 were permitted under the Wyoming Environmental Quality Act which includes Chapter 3, Wyoming Water Quality Division, regulations for permit to construct and Chapter 11, Wyoming Water Quality Division, design and construction standards for disposal systems. Any swine facility application to construct new facilities or increase the capacity of existing facilities submitted after 2-28-97 are regulated under the Wyoming Environmental Quality Act which includes Chapter 20, Wyoming Water Quality Division, permitting, design, and operation standards for confined swine feeding operations. He said that there have been no applications submitted in the State of Wyoming under the Chapter 20 regulations.

There are presently nine confined swine feeding operations permitted under Chapters 3 and 11 in the State of Wyoming. Four of those are in Platte County and the remaining five are in Laramie County. There are presently six CAFO's in Platte County with NPDES Permits and there are two new permits pending approval at this time.

Mr. Harmon reported that the DEQ has been working vigorously with Wyoming Premium Farms to improve their facilities. WPF has a deadline of September 30, 2001 to bring into compliance any violations that have been outlined by a private consultant. Mr. Harmon will forward a copy of this report to the Board.

Mr. Harmon advised the Board to look at all livestock operations, not just swine. He said that a large dairy could locate in Platte County and regulations need to be in place to protect the people of the County depending on whether this would be looked at as economic development or a nuisance on the environment.

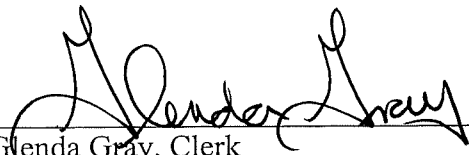
Mr. Beach informed the Board that DEQ will be holding an informal meeting to explain to Platte County citizens the land application permit for WPF at Finisher Number One, more commonly known as the Lancaster Site. This location was not included in the July hearings. It is the belief of the DEQ that if WPF has a larger surface area in which to spread the effluent that more effluent can be circulated out of the lagoons, thereby allowing more water to be added to the lagoons and ultimately reducing the odor.

When asked what could possibly be added to the Platte County regulations, they both mentioned set backs. Platte County currently has a two mile set back, Laramie County has a three mile set back, and DEQ has a one mile set back. The one item that could be included is set backs from domestic and stock wells, DEQ has  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile and Laramie County has  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile.

Another area discussed was sub-divisions and if an acre is still a viable lot size for both a water well and septic system. Mr. Beach advised the Board that DEQ has to report to the County Commissioners on all applications concerning the soil findings and what is the best design for well and septic systems. Currently, the sub-divisions that have been applied for in Platte County are adequate for the planned systems.

The next meeting will be on January 22, 2001, 7:00 P.M. There being no further business before the Board the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Glenda Gray, Clerk