

# **Campground Regulations Workgroup Meeting Minutes September 21, 2015, 1:00 p.m.**

The campground section of the Public Health Code, 1978 PA 368, Part 125 (Act) has not been updated since 2004 and the rules have not been updated since 2000. Both the Act and rules reflect simple transient camping, but many sectors of the industry have progressed to provide more amenities, especially in terms of more fully equipped recreational vehicles (RVs) and increased seasonal camping. Public health and safety issues related to industry progress are not fully addressed in the Act and rules. This Workgroup has been convened to recommend changes to both the Act and the rules that will better reflect current industry practices.

## **Abbreviations**

Abbreviations used throughout the minutes and other correspondence. Other less used abbreviations will be set in the context of the location where it is used, many of which are in the Attendance and following.

- Act means the campground sections of Part 125 of the Public Health Code, 1978 PA 368 as amended
- ARVC-MI means the Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds of Michigan
- CG means campground
- DEQ means the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- DNR means the Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- LARA means the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
- LHD means local health department
- MARVAC means Michigan Association of Recreation Vehicles and Campgrounds
- MDARD means the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Rules means the Michigan Campground Rules
- RV means recreational vehicle
- Workgroup means the Campground Regulations Workgroup

## **Attendance**

The tenth meeting of the Campground Regulations Workgroup (Workgroup) convened at 1:09 p.m. Members and guests attending this meeting were:

- Ken Bowen, Health Officer, Ionia County Health Department, representing Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH)
- Keith Cheli, Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Division (MDNR) by teleconference
- Tom Frazier, Legislative Liaison representing Michigan Townships Association
- David Graves, P.E., DEQ, Environmental Engineer, Campground Program
- Jim Horan, Sunnybrook RV Resort, representing MARVAC
- Mary Kushion, Mary Kushion Consulting
- Lisa Rice, Michigan Association of Fairs & Exhibitions (MAFE)
- Sarah Rottiers, REHS, DEQ Campground Program
- Bill Sheffer, Director, MARVAC
- Liane Shekter Smith, P.E. Chief, DEQ, Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance (ODWMA)
- Paul D. Sisson, P.E., DEQ, Environmental Engineer Specialist, Campground Program
- Larry Stephens, P.E., Stephens Consulting Services, PC, representing Michigan Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (MOWRA)

## **Guests**

- Pat Cook, DEQ
- Tim DeWitt, MARVAC
- Dave Fiedler, DEQ
- Jeremy Hoeh, DEQ
- Sarah Howes, DEQ
- Lee Morris, Camp Dearborn

### **Members Absent**

- Michael L. Berrevoets, FTC&H, representing American Council of Engineering Companies of Michigan (ACEC)
- David Cordray, White River Campground, representing ARVC-MI
- Debra Duffy, Family Campers & RVs
- Jim Horan, Sunnybrook RV Resort, representing MARVAC
- Bob Garcia, Family Motor Coach Association
- Keith Lambert, Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA)
- Paul Maitre, Blue Gill Camping, representing ARVC-MI
- Richard Miller, State Fire Marshall, LARA Bureau of Fire Services
- Carrie Monosmith, Chief, DEQ Environmental Health Section
- Eric Pessel, Environmental Health Director, Kent County Health Department, representing Michigan Association of Local Environmental Health Administrators (MALEHA)
- Rob Pirsein, P.E., Midwest Civil Engineers, PC
- Dan Stencil, Executive Officer, Oakland County Parks & Recreation, representing Michigan Recreation and Park Association
- Steve Yencich, President, Michigan Lodging & Tourism Association (MLTA)

### **Invited Stakeholders Not Present**

- Cinda Karlik, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)

### **Introductions of Members and Guests and Other Member Information**

Lisa Rice was introduced. She represents the Michigan Association of Fairs & Exhibits.

Tim DeWitt representing MARVAC accompanied Bill Sheffer.

Jeremy Hoeh was introduced as the DEQ Environmental Health Program Manager. He replaced Ric Falardeau in January 2015.

Dave Fiedler and Sarah Howes were introduced. They are from the DEQ Executive Office.

Lee Morris from Camp Dearborn was introduced. He represented MARVAC in place of Jim Horan.

### **Minutes**

Due to the long delay since the October 13, 2014 meeting, these were not discussed or acted on.

### **Changes to the Act Draft since Last Meeting**

As of the last meeting, the Workgroup essentially completed proposed changes to the Act. It was thought at that time that these changes would be put forward directly with the exception that the workgroup agreed that DEQ place appropriate enforcement and fine procedures in the Act.

The Act was not moved forward so the setting of enforcement procedures was delayed through the next several months. Some work on this was completed in January, June, and August 2015. The decision was made in August to move on the Act again and this meeting was set.

### **Section 12501(1)(f)(vi) Proposed Park Model Definition**

The MARVAC board submitted a suggested revision to the draft definition of a “park trailer” or park model. The proposed change would allow the calculation of the 400 sq ft area to include only the enclosed heated area.

The MARVAC amendment would add “... that has a gross trailer area of not more than 400 square feet in the set up mode and said 400 square feet is calculated only on the enclosed heated area, and that ...” After some discussion, some simplified language was offered; “... that has a gross heated trailer area of not more than 400...” The workgroup had no objection with either of these changes, but did not decide on either one.

This clarification is proposed since many park models are already constructed with a porch as part of the structure. US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which sets requirements for manufactured housing and to some extent RVs, had wavered whether the porch was or was not included in the 400 sq ft maximum. They have reportedly settled on agreeing that the porch was NOT included in the 400 sq ft. This actually could make park models a bit larger, but there are still legal limitations on the width and length of a park model that can legally be transported on the roads.

The workgroup briefly discussed the Recreational Vehicle Industry Association (RVIA) as a standards developer accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) as it relates to this issue. RVIA has set requirements for park models in RVIA/ANSI A119.5 2015. If the revised RVIA standard does not include the porch in the 400 sq ft, and HUD has agreed with this, then why would it be necessary to cite anything other than RVIA/ANSI A119.5 2015, the porch exclusion or the general 400 sq ft?

In general, the workgroup must be mindful with this definition and any other definition, that regulatory requirements should not be included in the definition.

### **Enforcement and Fine Procedures and Authorities**

The workgroup generally discussed the enforcement and fines added to the Act since the last meeting. These items need clarification concerning the procedures and authorities.

### **Other Items**

The workgroup generally discussed:

- The need for adequate space around and in between RVs and other structures on CG sites. This discussion would be continued when a workgroup works on the CG rules.
- What if the minimum number of sites to be defined as a CG were raised to 10 sites. This might affect the fee schedule.
- The revised fees proposed in Act were set by including close to 40% being subsidized by Non-Community Water Supply funds. With about 1,100 CGs having NCW supplies, this would amount to NCWS funds providing close to 1 FTE for the CG program.
- This past season, DEQ began publishing a simple list of licensed CGs on the website. The list is being used by the general public to see if a CG has a current license. The list is also being used by townships to check the status of CG licenses in their jurisdiction.

### **Next Steps**

Due to the uncertainty of when the CG Act proposal will move forward, the next meeting of the workgroup was not scheduled. Concerning rules revisions, these are very necessary, and

individual workgroup members could work on them, but it is premature for the workgroup consider these until we know what direction the CG Act is going.

The workgroup meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

Attachment; CG Act Draft, September 21, 2015 Working Copy.

As a personal note, on my retirement, it has been a privilege working with the CG workgroup and getting to know each one of you. I would like to thank you for your service to the campground industry and to the citizens State of Michigan. I have personally observed your desire and passion to protect the public health and safety of all people using campgrounds in Michigan. Your efforts will ensure a Pure Michigan camping experience for generations to come.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul D. Sisson, P.E.  
September 28, 2015