

FLORIDA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

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May 9, 2007

Mr. Jack Hotaling, General Manager
Cedar Key Water & Sewer District
P.O. Box 309
510 3rd Street
Cedar Key Fl. 32625

Mr. Hotaling,

On May 9, 2007 at your request, Florida Rural Water met with you and your staff to discuss the Food oil and grease (FOG) problem that was affecting the sewer collection system as well as the treatment process.

The problem has been large amounts of FOG have been causing blockages within the system as well as problems in the wastewater treatment plant. This then requires the plant to direct the effluent discharge to be diverted to the bay. Ultimately this can cause environmental problems as well as economical issues. The shell fishing (clams, oyster) could be shut down during these discharges, causing economic losses. To avoid this situation, it is a priority to control the FOG from entering the collection system.

Along with the cooperation of the City of Cedar Key, on May 7, 2007, an inspection of the restaurants and businesses that prepare food was conducted. During this inspection of the facilities, it was found that the only grease collection was accomplished by small grease traps located in the kitchen area. Most of these only served the sink, and were only about 5-7 gallons in size. Also many had no means of grease collection. Overall the FOG collection is inadequate and in some instances nonexistent.

The recommendation, would to be installing interceptors of adequate size for the flows. A possibility that was discussed is a centralized master interceptor that could more easily pumped and maintained. (Dock St.)

After researching this matter, I found that most cities that have grease ordinances that require interceptors of 900-1000gallon capacity as well as requiring scheduled pump outs, and documentation to prove pump outs are done as required.

Most of the people we spoke to during the inspection were really not aware of the problem that the grease causes, but were willing to make changes to help.

Public education is a great way to inform the community as to how they can help do their part to protect the environment and economic interests, I would be happy to provide training at your convenience. This could be a presentation at a public meeting, counsel meeting or anytime.

Thank you for allowing me to assist Cedar Key in solving the FOG issues. This is important to all of us.

If you need any further information please call me at Cell 352-598-0362. Or the office at 800-872-8207.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy Hamberger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "H".

Troy Hamberger
FRWA Wastewater Training Tech