COUNTY DEPARTMENT AGENDA REQUEST

Department:	Water System	Presenter(s):	Tony Parrott
Meeting Date:	Thursday, June 9, 2011	Type of Request:	Consent

Wording for the Agenda:

Approval of the Water Committee's request to insert a septic tank maintenance mailer in water bills mailed to customers in unincorporated Fayette County.

Background/History/Details:

The Fayette County Water System is required to perform septic-tank education outreach as one of the best management practices for the County's MPDES MS4 permit (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System). The proposed water bill insert highlighting septic-tank function and maintenance meets this permit requirement.

The insert would go to 12,000 of the Water System 27,000 customers.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Approval of the Water Committee's request to insert a septic tank maintenance mailer in water bills mailed to customers in unincorporated Fayette County.

If this item requires funding, please describe:

The Stormwater Department is printing the inserts in-house, thus there is little cost involved.

Has this issue come before the Commissioners in the past?	No	If so, when?	
Do you need audio-visual for the presentation?	No	Back-up Material Submitted?	Yes

STAFF USE ONLY

Approved by Finance	Yes	Reviewed by Legal	
Approved by Purchasing	Not Applicable	Approved by County Clerk	Yes
Administrator's Approval	Yes		

Staff Notes:

DO YOU KNOW YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM IS "GREEN?"

Septic Systems Safely Recycle Wastewater – Wastewater flows from your house into the tank where heavy solids or *sludge* settles to the bottom. *Scum* made up of hair, grease, and soap float to the top of the tank and wastewater in the middle is pushed out into the *drainfield*. *Baffles* attached to the outlet of the tank keep scum from entering the *drainfield*.

A leachfield is a perforated-pipe network buried 1-3 ft. deep in gravel channels. – Dissolved waste and bacteria is then decomposed by microorganisms and nutrients and absorbed into the soil.

Treated wastewater or *effluent* leaves the leachfield and percolates down through the soil. As effluent continues to seep down through the soil, waste not removed in the *drainfield* are further removed by natural process in the soil before meeting up with groundwater.

SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT CHECK YOU CAN MAKE TO PROTECT YOUR HOME

Perform Regular Maintenance - Solids must eventually be pumped from the tank. Experts advise pumping a 1,000 gallon septic-tank used daily for a family of four every 3-5 years.

Do Not Pour Grease Down the Drain - Grease can clog the septic *drainfield*, making it impossible for soil to absorb liquids. If that happens you'll need a new *drainfield*.

Avoid Hazardous Chemicals - Varnish, paint thinners, motor oils, gasoline and other similar chemicals can ruin your system and are a hazard to groundwater. Dispose of them properly.

Protect the System from Damage - Do not drive over or build a structure on top of the *drainfield*, or cover it with concrete or asphalt. Do plant grass on top to minimize erosion.