



# AMISH ROUNDTABLE

2024 WCCA FALL CONFERENCE

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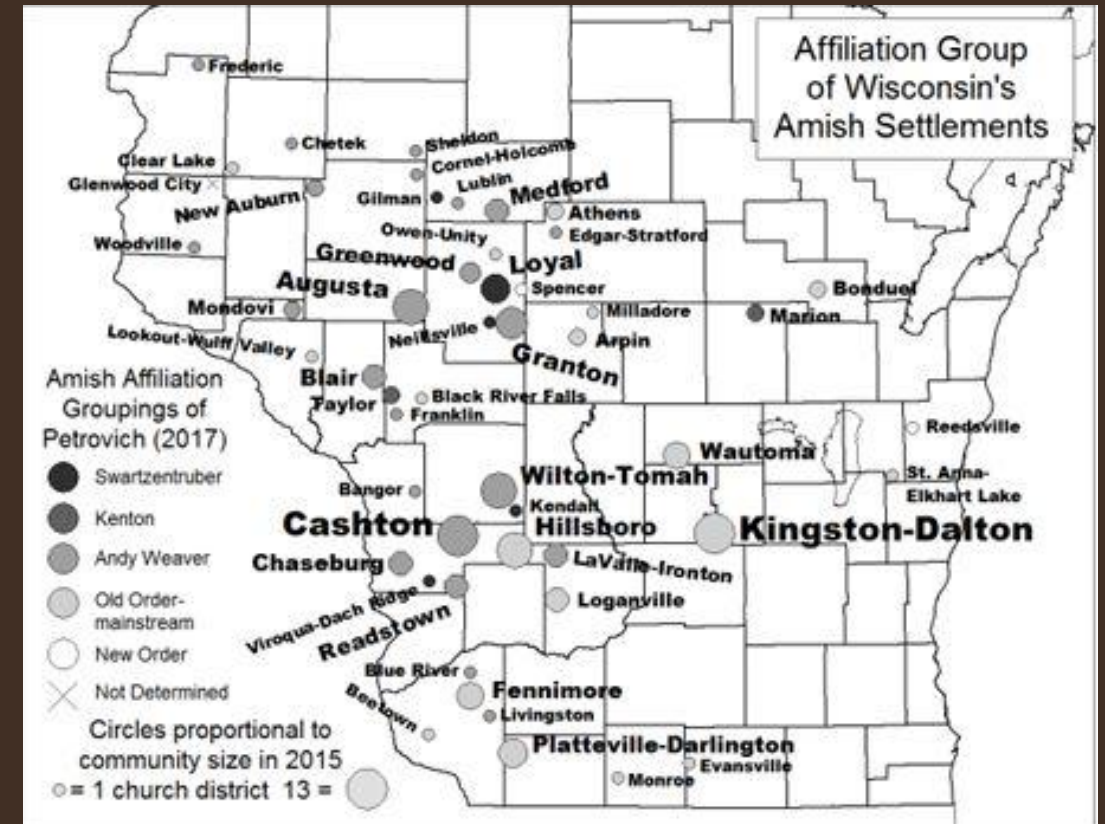
*Brian Giebel – Calumet County*

*James Bergles – Grant County*

*Ben Bublitz – Eau Claire County*

# BACKGROUND

- Wisconsin has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest Amish population in the United States (26,365).
- Monroe and Vernon Counties contain the largest Amish cluster in Wisconsin, with approximately 2,580 people.
- Amish contain several subgroups, with each group expressing different views on the use of modern technologies.



# THE AMISH TEND TO HAVE LARGE FAMILIES AND/OR EXTENDED FAMILIES LIVING IN THE SAME HOUSEHOLD. HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING CONCERNS:

- I would like to install an in-law suite so my parents can move in during their later years. Why do I have to expand my septic system?
- If I add an in-law suite, can I only sign an affidavit of no increased flow instead of increasing the size of my system?
- Even though we have a large family, we don't use as much water as an English family. Why does our septic system have to be so big when we're not using very much water?

MOST AMISH DO NOT USE ELECTRICITY, WHICH CAN COMPLICATE THE DESIGN OF A POWTS WHEN A GRAVITY SYSTEM IS NOT AN OPTION. HOW HAS YOUR COUNTY HANDLED THE FOLLOWING POWTS CONCERNS:

- How have you addressed the need for an alarm on the tank?
- Do you allow the Amish to build their own privy's as allowed by the state if it is a 1 room schoolhouse with no fixtures?
- Do you have individuals requesting to land apply privy waste? If so, how have you handled those requests?
- What alternative technologies have you seen utilized for Amish owned POWTS?
- Do you provide educational materials for system maintenance specific to the Amish or farms in general (keeping livestock off drainfields, what can be planted on drainfields, etc.)?

AMISH COMMUNITIES TEND TO HAVE A WIDE ARRAY OF LAND USES AND BUSINESSES THEY OPERATE FROM THEIR PROPERTIES. HOW HAS YOUR COUNTY ATTEMPTED TO ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING CONCERNS:

- Do you permit accessory dwelling units in your zoning ordinance?
- Are there any land uses or other items you have included in your ordinances to help the Amish Community?
- What type of land uses are you typically permitting within the Amish Community?
- Have you experienced a lot of small business requests?

# LAND USE CONCERNS CONTINUED

- When dealing with Exclusive Ag., to be considered a “farm” and be allowed certain ag-related or non-ag-related uses, existing agricultural uses have to be conducted for the purposes of producing an income or livelihood. How is the word “livelihood” interpreted in your County?
- How does your County handle accessory storage buildings for non-ag. related uses in the EA. District?
- How has your county handled the permitting of schools, churches, and cemeteries for the Amish?

COMMUNICATION CAN OFTEN BE ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT FACTORS IN WORKING WITH THE AMISH. IF YOUR COMMUNITIES DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO OR LIMITED ACCESS TO PHONES, HOW HAVE YOU ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING CONCERNS:

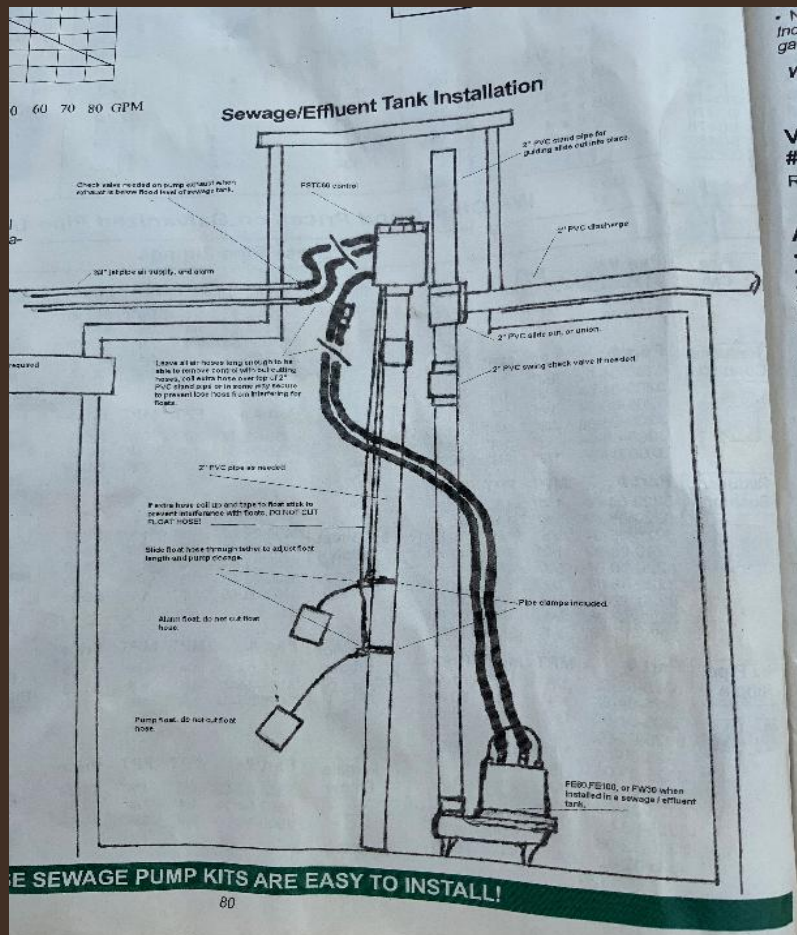
- What has traditionally been your level of communication with the Amish in your community?
- What has been your best form of contact?
- Do the Amish in your area have non-Amish person that assists them with phone calls, rides, etc.?
- Do you often have Amish refusing to obtain permits?
- Is there anything unique you do, or a different approach you take, to help foster communication?

# RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS

- If you have received the question, how have you handled the discussion regarding religious exemptions?
- Have you seen an increase in religious exemption requests since the Mast v. County of Fillmore decision in Minnesota?



# ALTERNATIVE PUMP TECHNOLOGIES



# Air Compressor Pump Diagram



# Air Compressor Pump

# ALTERNATIVE PUMP TECHNOLOGIES



Flout Pumps



Gasoline Pump



# AMISH "PRIVY"



# QUESTIONS?

Thank you!

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