

**NORTHWESTERN WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2007**

A regular meeting of the Northwestern Water and Sewer District Board of Trustees was held in the Board Room of the Northwestern Water and Sewer District's Operations Facility, Bowling Green, Ohio on Thursday, September 13, 2007 at 7:30 a.m.

Mr. John Ault, President, brought the meeting to order and requested that the roll be called:

Paul Brim	John Cheney	John Current
Melinda Kale	Alex Molner	Terry Murray
Lyle Schulte	Phil Shaffer	John Ault

Members absent: None

Others:

Jerry Greiner	Beth Vannett	Bill Barber
Dave Cook	Leanne O'Brien	Val Megyesi
Mike Stoll		

Clint Wells, Poggemeyer Design Group

Debbie Hine	15885 Five Point Rd, Perrysburg
Larry Koosed	24259 W. River Road, Perrysburg
Mary Winter	14891 Five Point Rd, Perrysburg
Mike & Barb Booth	15491 Five Point Rd, Perrysburg
Don Phillips	24333 W. River Rd, Perrysburg

At this time John Ault welcomed residents from Five Point Road.

1. Debbie Hine presented to the Board a petition of 104 signatures indicating they do not want sewers and also request that they be allowed to attend any private and public meetings where this project is being discussed.
2. Alex Molner stated there are no private meetings, that all meetings held at the District are public.
3. Larry Koosed stated they were not invited to the last meeting held with Bill Barber and the NAG group and seems these are private meetings.
4. Debbie Hine asked about the water samples taken and where to obtain a copy from the 2005 testing. The samples that were obtained from 2004 show 35 properties tested, of those 32 had no discharge, 27 had no die, and only 1 of the residences were found to be in violation. She feels the scope of the project for one residence is an extreme measure.
5. Lyle Schulte asked if any time had been spent at the Health Department and stated that we do not do the sampling and only take the orders from the Health Department

and the EPA. He also stated copies of the samples would need to be obtained through the Health Department.

6. John Cheney stated the District has no hand in the sampling or the ruling that the District only reacts to the ruling.
7. Larry Koosed stated the implication is that the District is ordered to install sewers, but the correspondence from Jerry Greiner does not state that, in fact it states to "remedy the situation." He feels that the District is going directly from the orders to installation and this is the biggest concern of the residents that they are not being listened to.
8. Bill Barber stated that the District does nothing else, but water and sewers, if any other procedure needs done to remedy the situation the residents need to go back to the Health Department or the EPA, we do not have the authority to do anything else. He also stated that the first step we have is when the Health Department notifies us that an order has been filed with the EPA that would be the first time the District would be involved or have any notification of the problem. We have no knowledge of where they are sampling or what activities are going on.
9. Larry Koosed stated that he read the Director's orders and it stated that sewers can be included as one solution; it does not say "only sewers."
10. Bill Barber stated that the District does nothing other than gravity or low-pressure sewers and if there is another option or type of treatment the residents need to go to the Health Department or EPA.
11. Larry Koosed stated the residents have not heard anything regarding the project until May of 2007. He asked if the District has communicated with anyone in the neighborhood regarding the sewers. He asked what our responsibility or interests are in this project. He asked if the District's responsibility is to serve the community, shouldn't the residents be involved in the decision making process.
12. Bill Barber reiterated that if the residents want anything else done other than a public sewer line they would need to go back to the Health Department or EPA.
13. Larry Koosed asked how the residents even know what is going on.
14. Bill Barber stated that the orders are published in the papers. He stated that has always been the policy of the Health Department and EPA. He stated that if the residents want to challenge the original orders they need to go back to the Health Department.
15. Debbie Hine asked if the EPA contracted the Health Department to do the work.
16. Bill Barber stated that the Health Department does all the work and they would find that there is probably a 5 to 10 year history on this area. The Health Department does the work then turns it over to the EPA.

17. Debbie Hine stated she felt there were some false facts being sent to the EPA. She asked who provides the information to the EPA. She stated that originally the EPA wrote there were 70 un-sewered homes and the District correspondence states that 90 homes are affected. She stated she recently spoke to Eric Getz at the EPA and he stated that there are 33 grinders for River Road, 61 grinders for Five Point, 70 gravity for Hull Prairie and 9 gravity for Five Point for a total of 110 homes. Her concern is that the numbers keep inflating and is confused as to what the number actually is.
18. Bill Barber stated that there are variables involved like the route that the discharge will be taken from. He stated the engineering is not complete on this project and the total number of homes affected is not clear at this point. We cannot determine at this point who is exactly in or out except for the actual ordered areas. Anyone beyond the ordered areas may be in or out depending on the route taken.
19. Debbie Hine asked if that was 1000' or 400'. She indicated she recently received correspondence stating 1000' feet, but was told by Brad Espen at the Health Department that it is 400'.
20. Bill Barber stated that to the best of his knowledge it was 400'.
21. Debbie Hine asked where she could find a map as to who is in or out of the project scope. She stated there are homes on River Road that need to know if they will be affected by the project. She asked who could legally provide these residents with this information. She stated that the project seems to be leaching out farther and farther onto River Road.
22. Bill Barber agreed that people need to know, but the problem with that is the original system submitted to the EPA was a low pressure system and that has a different route than the gravity system. Anytime a sewer passes in front of a home they are required to connect by federal law. He stated they would have to go back to the original orders to see what the boundaries are.
23. Larry Koosed stated that the revision is well past the original ordered area.
24. Bill stated he was not sure of that and without the plans in front of him he would not be able to tell.
25. Larry Koosed asked why the District has never communicated something this big with such financial impact to the residents.
26. Don Phillips asked at what point the residents that ultimately pay for this have input on the project.
27. Bill Barber stated that normally the District gets the project roughed out and then have a public meeting to discuss with residents. Unfortunately with this project the residents came to us before we were even working on this project. We have multiple other projects in the county that we are currently working on. He stated this project would probably not even start until 2009.

28. Debbie Hine asked if this project was a “done deal” if the draft is approved.
29. Bill responded that unless the orders are challenged the project will proceed.
30. Mike Booth stated that the EPA has indicated certain areas will be getting low-pressure sewers, so the decision has been made that the area will get sewered.
31. Bill Barber responded that plans have been submitted to the EPA for low pressure sewers, but also previously had a rough design for a gravity system and are now revisiting that option since the NAG group meeting.
32. Mike Booth asked what got us to the point where we need sewers.
33. Bill Barber stated that the EPA issued orders and we are simply responding to those orders.
34. Mike Booth asked if the orders were based on a number of violations.
35. Bill Barber stated he could not answer that and they would need to go back to the Health Department or EPA. We are only reacting to the orders.
36. Mike Booth asked if the orders were for sewers or are to resolve the problem.
37. Bill Barber again stated he could not answer that and they would need to go back to the Health Department or EPA.
38. Mike Booth asked at what point can the orders be challenged.
39. Bill Barber stated that the orders should have been challenged back in 2005 when the public notice went out.
40. Debbie Hine asked why, if only one home was causing the problem, wouldn't we install the line right behind Hull Prairie Meadows to the home in question and pick-up any other offending homes.
41. Bill Barber stated that we cannot pick out individual homes and all homes in the ordered area need to be included and are required to connect if within 400' according to federal law.
42. Debbie Hine stated that no findings were found for those residents on the south side of Five Point Road or on River Road. Why would these people be penalized and given sewers other than to make the District money?
43. Dave Cook stated that the District is a non-profit governmental agency and are not in the business to make a profit.
44. Debbie Hine stated that most homes in Wood County are on a septic, whose responsibility is it to work with the homeowners before construction starts.

45. Bill Barber reiterated that the residents need to discuss these concerns with the Health Department.
46. Mary Winter stated she has a new home with a 2 year old septic system and health issues and being forced on disability have eaten up her savings and she is afraid her and other people may lose their homes over this. She stated that the Board needs to take into consideration that these sewers are affecting people's lives. The residents would rather repair their septic systems and do not want sewers nor see a need for them.
47. Conversely, John Cheney responded that Mrs. Winter stated residents cannot afford the system at all, but the original design was for a much less expensive system than you are asking for now, so if these residents have financial problems these will be compounded by submitting a petition with 104 signature requesting a gravity system.
48. Larry Koosed stated that the 104 signatures are for No sewers, and these petitions have nothing to do with the NAG group's petition.
49. John Cheney stated that sewers are expensive to construct and it will but much more expensive to construct gravity sewers in the Five Point Road area and if there is a financial hardship the gravity system will compound it.
50. Mike Booth stated that he originally signed the original NAG petition, but signed it only because he was given the impression that sewers were a done deal and was told that there was a great deal of difference in cost, but those were the choices he had and he wanted to go with the best system. Now he finds out that there are so few homes that have failing septic tanks and makes no sense to not fix the septic systems and forget about the sewers.
51. John Cheney stated again that goes back to the original testing and we are only a recipient of the orders.
52. Mike Booth stated he felt that when the original petition was signed he felt he had 2 options at that time, now he feels he doesn't want either one. It doesn't make any sense why the septic tanks cannot be fixed and other residents have to pay when their septic systems are operating properly.
53. Bill Barber stated that the only option residents have at this point is a court challenge of the orders.
54. Debbie Hine asked that if what is currently on record is not rescinded they will give the permit to install?
55. Bill Barber stated we would have a permit to install and also will have a completion deadline or face fines by the EPA.
56. Debbie Hine asked who gives the final authority to include more portions of River Road.

57. Bill Barber stated that if you look at the original orders they go 1000' feet north on River Road which was set by the EPA.
58. Mike Booth asked in our present plan what is the earliest start date.
59. Bill Barber stated probably late 2008.
60. Lyle Schulte stated that the EPA sets all the timeframes for projects, we do not.
61. Larry Koosed asked if we ever received an order through the EPA and turned down a project due to size.
62. Bill Barber responded that a project had never been turned down.
63. Debbie Hine asked who she needed to contact to correct the false data that was submitted to the EPA.
64. Bill Barber responded that she would need to contact the Health Department, EPA, or TMACOG.
65. Larry Koosed asked when the final plan will be complete.
66. Bill Barber stated that depends on the area and there is a lot of work to still be done.
67. Larry Koosed asked if the District needed a plan for the upcoming EPA hearing.
68. Bill Barber stated that a final plan is not needed for the hearing.
69. Debbie Hine asked who she needed to contact, the Board of Commissioners, EPA or Health Department to change the public's right to know. She would like to see the policy changed and residents notified of issues like this sooner. She stated people needed to know for disclosure purposes.
70. Don Phillips stated that we have control over communications, we have a Public Relations Committee and feels we do control communications and asked if nothing else we consider the type and amount of information that is being communicated to the residents. They would have liked to have known sooner. He stated he does not subscribe to the local newspaper and would never have known about the project if not for his neighbors.
71. Lyle Schulte stated that the residents should have the same conversation with the Health Department. They are the ones that start the process and the ones that should be communicating with the residents.
72. Mary Winter stated that if she would have known sewers were coming she would not have built a new home.
73. Mike Booth stated there appears to be a lack of communication.

74. Mary Winter asked how we improve communication between the Health Department, EPA and the District. All offices work together all three offices should now what the other is doing.
75. Debbie Hine stated that she provided plans to the Health Department and thought it seemed odd that they did not have them and she needed to provide them.
76. Melinda Kale stated that the Health Department already did there job with the testing, they don't need the plans.
77. Mary Winter asked if it would help us if the Health Department communicated with us as far as what they are doing.
78. Melinda Kale stated that they did communicate with us when they made the ruling.
79. Mary Winter asked how do we know about the orders.
80. Melinda Kale stated that legal notices were posted in the paper.
81. Larry Koosed stated that 2 letters have been sent by the District and there was an effort made to communicate, but would have liked to been communicated with sooner.
82. Melinda Kale stated that we are not ready for construction and any communication that takes place before construction is the responsibility of the Health Department and EPA. She stated we don't even know who is involved in the project at this time to send any letters, we cannot send to all of Perrysburg Township.
83. Mike Booth asked if a representative from the District could be involved with the neighborhood meetings to answer any questions residents have.
84. Lyle Schulte stated that after the last Board meeting there was a committee set-up to meet with District staff and talk about these issues.
85. Debbie Hine stated that the representatives do not speak for her or the other 104 residents. She was told she could not attend these meetings by the NAG representatives and have been denied access to where the project is at.
86. Larry Koosed asked Bill Barber if he felt the 4 representatives from the NAG group were representing the entire neighborhood.
87. Bill Barber stated that he suggested at the Board meeting a committee be set-up to discuss issues instead of dealing with a large group.
88. Debbie Hine stated she wanted to report back to the River Road residents. When will residents of River Road now if they are involved.
89. Bill Barber stated that boundaries were already determined by the EPA.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting held on August 9, 2007 were reviewed. Terry Murray made a motion to approve. John Cheney seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. **Approved.**

At this time, Alex Molner made a motion to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation. Lyle Schulte seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes.

Lyle Schulte made a motion to return to regular session. Alex Molner seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes with the exception of John Current who was absent.

Correspondence

Jerry Greiner presented the correspondence file which was circulated and contained: Brochure for upcoming training by RCAP, 2007 Toledo Zoo catering holiday menu, The Ohio Township News magazine, Wood County Housing starts for August, USDA Risingsun sewers and wastewater treatment plant bid tabulation, WaterShed weekly revenues, and the Board policy schedule.

Report by Executive Director and Other Officials

Jerry Greiner reported:

- A public meeting was held in Hoytville to update residents on the water line project, estimated monthly bills will be \$45.00-55.00.
- Met with the City of Perrysburg 9/20/07 to discuss their thoughts on extending water to the JRS site. They may be interested in extending water North of Five Point Road on SR 25.
- Met with Rossford 9/6/07 to discuss St. Rt. 795 repairs. Rossford would like to seek any grant money available before making a decision.
- Met with City of Fostoria 9/7/07 to discuss Charter Steel. Currently our largest water and sewer user, Fostoria has proposed a lower rate if a master meter is installed. This would require another permit and additional sampling.
- Meeting with Perrysburg Township 9/24/07 to discuss JRS route.
- Several meetings have taken place with petitioned areas on Green, Robinson, Cross Creek and Liberty Hi Roads.
- Dan Wickard has been in contact with officials in Hancock and Ottawa counties regarding the flooding. Ottawa County did purchase 8,000 gallons of water and sandbags were taken to Findlay.
- Proposed Extension Committee 9/20/07.
- Need a date for the planning meeting with the Board. Looking at October 9th or 11th. Note: The Board agreed on October 11th at approx. 8:45 a.m.
- Township Trustees dinner is tonight (9/13/07) at Nazareth Hall.

- Rex Huffman is currently in Japan with Tom Blaha and Ed Ciecka meeting with Nippon Steel to discuss the LOF site in Rossford.
- A new Menard's store has been built in Oregon and have tapped into the District's water and sewer lines. The District will be contacting Oregon for tap information and collection of fees.
- R. Dorsey Plus will be here September 19, 2007 to give report of their findings wit the IT committee. They will give a formal report to the Board later in the fall.
- The District will be doing a proposal for the Village of Bloomdale to operate their wastewater plant on a full-time basis.
- Meetings regarding the rate study took place 9/10-9/11. Will give a recommendation to the Board in late November and committee late October or early November.
- Met with Economic Development office and Poggemeyer Design Group about the JRS project. Alternatives and costs were discussed as well as interest in a water line on Five Point Road.

Reports of Committees:

None to Report

Unfinished Business:

Resolution 2007-125. Acceptance and action on bids received for the Tracy Road and Oregon Road trunk sewer replacement, SS #100 area. Jerry Greiner suggested this resolution be tabled. John Cheney made a motion to table. Lyle Schulte seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. **Tabled.**

Resolution 2007-148. Void resolution 2004-122, approval of an interagency agreement with the Village of Hoytville. Jerry Greiner suggested that this resolution be tabled. John Cheney made a motion to table. Lyle Schulte seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. **Tabled.**

Resolution 2007-149. Review and approval of a Water Management Agreement with the Village of Hoytville. Jerry Greiner suggested that this resolution be tabled. John Cheney made a motion to table. Lyle Schulte seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. **Tabled.**

New Business

Resolution 2007-158. Change order #1, H & K Construction Services, ltd/Locust Street, Walnut Street and Broadway Avenue waterline improvements in the Village of Weston, WL #2312. Bill Barber stated this was a change order for an additional \$24,927.00 for an additional 400' of line north of Walnut on Broadway Avenue. Phil Shaffer made a motion to approve. Lyle Schulte seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. **Approved.**

Resolution 2007-159. Approval to advertise for bids for the East Broadway pump station backup power supply generator, WL #101. Bill Barber stated this resolution was approval to advertise for bids. This project is an Issue 2 project with grant money of \$170,000 available. The District will match the difference. Alex Molner made a motion to approve. Melinda Kale seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. **Approved.**

Resolution 2007-160. Notice of Intent to Proceed, Latcha and Pemberville Roads sanitary sewer extension, SS #140F. Bill Barber stated that this project was a petitioned area for gravity sewers by the Shamp Family. Alex Molner made a motion to approve. Lyle Schulte seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. **Approved.**

Resolution 2007-161. Approval to advertise for bids for the Latcha and Pemberville Roads sanitary sewer extension, SS #140F. Bill Barber stated this resolution is needed to advertise for bids for the Latcha Pemberville sanitary sewers. Advertisement will be September 20th and 27th with bid openings on October 9, 2007. Phil Shaffer made a motion to approve. Alex Molner seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. **Approved.**

Resolution 2007-162. Authorize the issuance of a special assessment bond for various water and sewer projects. Dave Cook stated that this resolution was to authorize the issuance of special assessment bonds. Dave stated that with what is happening with the market bond counsel has recommended doing one-year borrowing and come back next year and borrow a 19 year bond. The bond will be for \$960,000. Alex Molner made a motion to approve. Lyle Schulte seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. **Approved.**

Resolution 2007-163. Authorize a cooperative agreement with the Ohio Water Development Authority for the Village of Risingsun sanitary sewer project, SS #1900. Dave Cook stated this resolution was to authorize a cooperative agreement for construction between the District and OWDA. This is a requirement through the USDA. John Cheney made a motion to approve. John Current seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. **Approved.**

Resolution 2007-164, Authorize the preparation of an application to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement Program. Bill Barber stated this resolution is to authorize an application for Issue 1 money and will be used to replace the water tower in the Village of Weston. Alex Molner made a motion to approve. John Current seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. **Approved.**

Resolution 2007-165. Authorize the preparation of an application for an emergency grant through the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement Program for the Tracy Road and Oregon Road trunk sewer replacement, SS #100 area. Jerry Greiner stated the City of Rossford requested we apply for an emergency grant for the Tracy and Oregon Road Sewer replacement. Terry Murray made a motion to approve. Lyle Schulte seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. **Approved.**

Resolution 2007-167, Personnel Actions

Jerry Greiner reviewed the following actions:

1. Approve the completion of the probationary period for Pat Swope, Staff Accountant I, effective September 17, 2007
2. Approve the completion of the probationary period for Mark Naus, Sanitary Treatment Maintenance Operator I, Jet Truck, effective September 24, 2007.

Phil Shaffer made a motion to approve the above item. Paul Brim seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. **Approved.**

Receipt of Other Comments

None

Regular Meeting Dates

Regular Meeting:	September 27, 2007 7:30 a.m.	District Operations Facility Regular Meeting
Regular Meeting:	October 11, 2007 7:30 a.m.	District Operations Facility Regular Meeting

Adjournment

John Cheney made a motion to adjourn. Lyle Schulte seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting yes. **Adjourned.**

Respectfully Submitted,

John Current
Secretary/Treasurer

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