

# **WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT ISSUE**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the Wastewater Management Task Force?**

The Task Force was formed by the Board of Selectmen to review an alternative plan presented by Lombardo Associates Inc. in the summer of 2012. The BOS felt that in order to seriously consider this plan, we should be diligent and utilize available funding through the Clean Water Fund (CWF). In order to qualify, we needed to advertise a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and develop a fair and transparent process to choose an engineering firm to work with the Town on a Feasibility Study. The Task Force, under the able leadership of Kurt Zemba, chose the firm of Woodard and Curran to work with the Town on this very important project.

### **Why does the Town want to do a feasibility study?**

This study will determine the feasibility of establishing an alternative conveyance, community wastewater treatment system in Old Lyme.

### **What are the potential benefits of a community system?**

Homeowners benefit because their drinking water will be protected from contamination from their onsite wastewater systems. The entire community will benefit from cleaner water in Long Island Sound. An alternative conveyance, community system would keep our water resources in our own aquifers, rather than pumping it out of town. An alternative conveyance, community system would protect us from the costs associated with expansion of the New London Treatment Facility, which may not currently have the capacity to serve our long-term needs.

### **Have the beach associations – OC and OLS agreed not to start their project until the study is done?**

Old Colony Beach and Old Lyme Shores are continuing their efforts to meet the requirements of the Consent Orders issued last year. We have communicated with their officers and they are aware of our efforts. We are all hopeful that this solution will be the most cost effective one for all of us, and that all necessary studies will be accomplished within their time frame.

### **What costs are associated with the proposed feasibility study?**

The CT DEEP supports Old Lyme's efforts to find the lowest cost wastewater treatment solution and the project will be eligible for reimbursement from the Clean Water Fund. 55% of the feasibility study costs are eligible for Clean Water Fund reimbursement. The remaining 45%, along with any non-reimbursable costs, will be paid by the Town. The full cost of the study and securing the grant funding is estimated to be approximately \$185,000.

### **If the study shows that a wastewater treatment alternative is feasible, what happens next?**

The Town would begin the process of proposing, designing and constructing an alternative conveyance, community wastewater treatment system. Information sessions would be scheduled to keep the community informed and voter approval would be required before we could proceed.

### **Who will pay for the treatment facility?**

The portion of the costs that are not eligible for Clean Water Fund reimbursement will be paid by the end users. This includes the 45% and the cost for securing the grant funding

### **Who will determine the properties to be served by the community system?**

This is the purpose of the study. The area being reviewed is basically the Shoreline area, loosely described as "from Old Lyme Shores east to White Sand Beach

## **FAQ Continued:**

### **Will we be buying land?**

Currently, there are properties that are being considered that would support this community system. We have already communicated with the appropriate parties on securing access to land for testing for suitability. If the land is deemed suitable, there is no plan to purchase land at this time, but rather work with landowners on agreements for the beneficial use of the land for all parties.

### **Is there are problem with pollution now?**

While there is a difference in the definition of “pollution” between the State Dept. of Public Health and the CT DEEP, the Town of Old Lyme acknowledges that there are many very small lots that pose challenges to upgrading systems in need of repair or replacement. Our Health Dept. has always worked with homeowners to find the best solutions, but they are limited because alternative systems are not approved in the State of CT.

### **What about Rogers Lake property owners?**

This is another area of concern, but not something that will be addressed within this study. If this solution proves to be viable, we will then turn our attention to other areas of town that may have issues as well.

### **Do we have an order to do this from the CT DEEP?**

No, but we are working with them to make sure that we do things properly and qualify for any available reimbursements.

### **If this study indicates this will not work, what will happen next?**

We do not anticipate any immediate action by the town but expect many of our shoreline communities to be connecting to out of town sewer facilities that can adversely affect our community and taxes in the future.

### **Will homeowners be forced to participate in this community system if you go with this alternative?**

No, but if they have a system not meeting the State Department of Health requirements, it will be a lower cost alternative available to them to meet those requirements.

### **With our current state and local fiscal climate, why are we looking to spend more money when we have no pollution?**

We know we do have problems that will lead to pollution as does the DEEP and if not addressed now could lead to state directed orders in the future forcing the town to take steps that could prove very costly.

### **Will this system infringe on our open space, create unsightly structures and unpleasant odors or side effects?**

No, there is no plan to utilize our current open space, and this is an eco friendly system benefiting the land with no unsightly structures, or any unpleasant residual effects.

The March 25 Presentation will be taped and broadcast on Comcast Public Access Channel 14 at the following dates and times:

Tuesday, March 26, 7:30pm

Thursday, March 28, immediately following the Board of Selectmen meeting (begins at 7:30pm)

Sunday, March 31, 7:30pm

Monday, April 1, 7:30pm

Tuesday, April 2, 7:30pm

Thursday, April 4, immediately following the Board of Selectmen meeting (begins at 7:30pm)

Sunday, April 7, 7:30pm

**A Special Town Meeting to vote on appropriating funds for the Feasibility Study is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9 at 7:30pm in the Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School Auditorium.**