



**Lorain County
Rural Wastewater District**
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www.lorco.org

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE TOWNSHIPS AND VILLAGES 2005

The year 2005 was full of high expectations and lofty goals for LORCO. A number of these goals and expectations were achieved. However, numerous circumstances, most beyond LORCO's control, conspired to temporarily delay the realization of some of the organizations goals.

LORCO was formed in 1997 to provide wastewater services for the townships and smaller villages of Lorain County. Improved environmental conditions as a result of the installation of central wastewater systems, where needed and feasible, was a primary expected result of LORCO's efforts. A second, but very significant, benefit from the formation of LORCO was to provide townships with wastewater services without the loss of property through annexation to neighboring municipalities. On behalf of Eaton Township, LORCO was able to facilitate just such an accomplishment this past year.

An innovative contract, negotiated by LORCO with Grafton Village, provides access to Grafton's wastewater treatment capabilities for a planned residential development just outside the village in Eaton Township. This contract, and the wastewater service it provides, allowed Eaton Township to approve higher density zoning for the developer and maintain the property within the township. It also benefits Grafton Village by increasing the productivity and efficiency of the wastewater treatment facility in which its citizens have a significant investment.

One of the most significant national events of the year was hurricane Katrina. Even though the physical damage caused by Katrina was well removed from Lorain County, its impact was felt here in many ways. One of those ways was in the proposed financing package for LORCO's Carlisle and Eaton Township wastewater project. Prior to Katrina, a significant portion of the financing for this \$27 million project was anticipated to be available through a US governmental agency. Following the devastation from this huge storm, much of the available pool of federal funds was reserved for the needs of Katrina's victims. Even though a great deal of time and effort had been devoted during the year to finalizing LORCO's funding arrangements, it became necessary to re-evaluate what funding sources were available and the most beneficial mix of those sources. Despite this forced delay, a new funding package is being finalized and this long anticipated project will move forward in 2006.

A number of LORCO member communities undertook extensive evaluations during 2005 of the wastewater options available to them. Amherst and New Russia Townships and the villages of South Amherst and Kipton were able to review and evaluate the results of feasibility studies completed for them by GRW, LORCO's engineering firm. Additional efforts are continuing for the evaluation of treatment options,

cost analysis and the political ramifications of a regional wastewater collection system for this area.

Lagrange Township also invested considerable time and effort this past year reviewing their wastewater treatment options. At the conclusion of this exhaustive study, the township re-affirmed their commitment to LORCO and the independence this organization provides its members.

Even though LORCO did not accomplish all of its goals in 2005, it was still a very productive year. In addition to the above summary, numerous other tasks were completed or neared completion by the end of the year. A comprehensive personnel policy as well as other essential organizational and operational policies were assembled and adopted. Right-of-way acquisition efforts and the on site portion of the engineering for the Carlisle/Eaton Phase I project neared completion at the end of 2005.

The LORCO Board of Trustees, a dedicated group of individuals appointed by their respective township or village, is committed to working together to support the varied needs of its members, whether that support is in the political arena or requires specific planning for the provision of wastewater service to their township or village. 2005 proved to be another stepping stone for LORCO. 2006 promises to be full of challenges but also a year of significant achievement.

For further information visit our web site www.lorco.org.

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Yours truly,

James R. McConnell, President