



Lorain County
Rural Wastewater District
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www.lorco.org

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE TOWNSHIPS AND VILLAGES 2006

Although progress was sometimes hard to recognize, 2006 was another year of positive steps forward toward achievement of LORCO's primary goal of establishing a wastewater collection system in Carlisle and Eaton Townships. Along the way toward reaching that goal, a number of other smaller and less ambitious achievements were realized.

LORCO's primary purpose is to provide for the wastewater needs of its member townships and villages. In the case of Eaton and Carlisle Townships, the need is to install a wastewater collection system that will serve a large portion of both townships. When completed, this system (referred to as the Phase I Wastewater Collection System) will serve nearly 1400 existing homes and perhaps as many as 4000 additional homes within the next ten years. This estimate of additional growth is not just a number pulled from thin air. One of the major positive steps forward in 2006 was a contractual and financial commitment from developers and landowners in the proposed service area that establishes their intentions once the sewer system is operational. It is important to remember that these specific development plans are still subject to meeting the individual township zoning and land use restrictions.

It has been a prolonged process to meet the engineering, environmental, financial and political requirements necessary to provide the residents of Eaton and Carlisle Townships with a well-designed system that will meet their present needs, and serve them well into the future. At the end of 2006, the only significant hurdle remaining was finalizing the loan guarantee from USDA Rural Development. A local financial institution is prepared and eager to provide \$25 million necessary for funding the majority of this project. The USDA loan guarantee will reduce the debt interest costs to the benefited users. The LORCO Board of Trustees has been committed to providing economical wastewater service, and therefore has been pursuing this method of reducing costs, even though it has been a time consuming and cumbersome process. Additional funds to complete the project will include a \$5.4 million low interest loan from the Ohio Water Development Authority and an investment of \$6.9 million by the City of Avon Lake. Support from local governments, the Lorain County General Health District, the rural utilities and the citizens in the area to be served has been strong and unwavering. It is expected that construction on this project will begin in 2007 with completion anticipated for late 2008.

While LORCO's primary focus has been centered on the Phase I project, other member townships and villages have had wastewater issues requiring attention as well. One smaller project, in Eaton Township, reached completion near the end of the year. Barrington Park, a housing development on the north edge of Grafton, completed the installation of its streets and utilities, including sewers, and was moving forward with construction of the first homes within the development. The wastewater system serving this project is owned and maintained by LORCO. The wastewater from this project is

being treated via contract with the Village of Grafton and now is the first operational system under LORCO's control. Most importantly, the development remained in the township and was not lost to annexation because LORCO was able to provide the needed wastewater service.

At the request of LORCO members, additional study has been ongoing for future service to areas within New Russia and Amherst Townships and the Villages of South Amherst and Kipton. Other services were provided to LaGrange and Wellington Townships as their representative in wastewater matters.

LORCO tragically lost one of its most dedicated trustees when Ed Born, from Henrietta Township, was killed in a traffic accident in November. The welfare of Ed's family continues to be in the thoughts of the LORCO Trustees and staff.

The LORCO organization is resolute in its commitment to provide for the wastewater needs of its member townships and villages. Not every member has immediate need of wastewater service, but still recognizes the need to be vigilant and foresighted in addressing all present and future possibilities. Most importantly, local government, through LORCO, is in control.

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

The LORCO Board of Trustees

#1	Camden Township:	Scott Grills (07)
#2	Carlisle Township:	James Wright (07)
#3	Eaton Township:	Ernie Walker (07)
#4	Elyria Township:	Rick Hutman (07)
#5	Grafton Township:	Dominic Ferritto (07)
#6	Henrietta Township:	Edward Born (07)
#7	Huntington Township:	Ernest Hartman (08) (Vice-President)
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#9	New Russia Township:	John Piwinski (08)
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#12	Wellington Township:	Don Wittmer (08)
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#14	Kipton Village:	Dorothy Collins (09)
#15	Rochester Village:	Dwaine Clinker (09)
#16	Amherst Township:	Neil Lynch (09)

Yours truly,

James R. McConnell

James R. McConnell, President