



Lorain County
Rural Wastewater District
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www.lorco.org

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE TOWNSHIPS AND VILLAGES 2011

The Board and Staff of LORCO are happy to report the Phase I Sanitary Sewer Project in parts of Eaton and Carlisle Townships was substantially completed and certified in 2011. The project consisted of a thirteen mile forced main to the pollution control center in Avon Lake and a collection system with approximately thirty-seven miles of sanitary sewer piping in parts of Eaton and Carlisle Townships.

LORCO began 2011 with the traditional election of officers to serve on the board. Once again, the board elected: James R. McConnell as President, Neil Lynch as Vice-President and Thomas Lahetta as Secretary-Treasurer. The board also continued its practice of scheduling regular meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm in the LORCO offices. January also provided the board the opportunity to review the existing rate structure for customers in the LORCO system. After several committee meetings and reviews the board opted to continue the existing rate structure with no changes.

In February the board adopted changes to the policy manual setting a sunset date for existing homes to be eligible for the lower tap-in fee. They also adopted other policies to help better serve our customers. The board recognized the years of service to outgoing trustee Dorothy Collins who served the board representing the Village of Kipton.

March began with construction progressing on the Phase I project. The board also saw the retirement of Ernest Hartman representing Huntington Township. Ernie was one of the founding members of LORCO and served as the first president of the board of trustees. March also include a public meeting in Eaton Township to introduce the Phase I customers to the upcoming connection requirements. The meeting was well attended and several residents offered good questions and input. Members of the Lorain County General Health District also attended the meeting and offered residents important information concerning the procedures for disconnecting their home sewage treatment systems.

In April, the board made an important decision concerning the method of collecting tap-in fees for those who could not pay the entire fee up front. The board developed an assessment procedure to allow the fee to be repaid by assessment to their tax duplicate and collected by the county auditor over a twenty year term at an interest rate of five percent.

In May, the executive director visited Columbia Township and presented to their trustees and community members information concerning the LORCO collection sewers. The meeting was well attended and feedback from the township was mixed. The opportunity to serve parts of Columbia Township in the future was discussed and some advantages to the community were presented. Also in May, the board was informed one of the contractors working on the transmission line to the Avon Lake Pollution Control Center was in default. This default seriously jeopardized the planned completion date of the project and the connection process for the Phase I customers.

In June the board adopted the official resolution to allow residents to be assessed for their tap in fees. The board also passed the 2012 temporary operating budget as required by the state. June also involved extensive policy discussion concerning usage rates and the ability of residents to use water deduct meters to reduce their sewer bills.

July was a month of minor policy changes and collaboration discussions with regional partners for LORCO. We were invited to the Lorain-Medina Rural Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting at the fairgrounds. The board also reviewed the language on our user agreement. The Policy Committee made revisions to the form as a result of input from our legal counsel. The user agreement had conflicting language for homes with and without grinder pumps so the board recommended two separate forms to accommodate the type of connection. The board was also updated by the executive director concerning efforts within the county to establish a regional wastewater treatment authority. The director attended meetings with several communities throughout Lorain County considering the consolidation of wastewater treatment plants to better serve their residents. The advantages of regional treatment was presented to the LORCO board allowing lower treatment rates for our customers and providing opportunities for new projects in the western communities of the county.

In August, the LORCO board formed an ad hoc committee to begin the planning of the dedication ceremony for the Phase I project. The main pump station near SR 82/SR57 intersection was tested and it was expected to become operational in September.

September involved an amendment to the cooperative agreement with Avon Lake Municipal Utilities to reduce the monthly payment to LORCO from \$20,000 to \$15,000. This was facilitated to improve cash flow and to reflect the understanding the LORCO board had to allow for most of LORCO's stranded cost to be recovered through the OWDA construction loan. September also saw the first sewer usage bills for the Phase I customers sent out. Project clean-up and restoration was also an important topic in September. Chuck Whitmer, Avon Lake Municipal Utilities Board President, attended the LORCO Board meeting to assure the LORCO board of their commitment to complete the restoration and clean-up concerns being expressed by Phase I customers.

During October, the board adopted a policy to address monthly fees for vacant homes. Clean up and restoration continued with customer connections being made each week.

November was an exciting month for LORCO because the Phase I system was certified. All the components to the system became operational and November 18 was the official certification date. December ended the 2011 year for LORCO with the first

payment received from Avon Lake Municipal Utilities as part of the cooperative agreement. December also marked the first month for LORCO to be operating on real revenues and not borrowed funds. There were 573 customers connected to the Phase I project as of year end, with the balance of 561 existing homes and businesses expected to be connected in 2012.

Your Board of Trustees remains committed to the mission and goals of LORCO. We will continue to plan, evolve and address the ever changing environmental concerns affecting sanitary sewers in Rural Lorain County. Our focus in 2012 will be more toward educating the public on the advantages of central sewers and the comparison in costs to home sewage treatment systems. The board's job is to keep the cost as low as possible and at the same time provide top-level service.

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

The LORCO Board of Trustees

#1	Camden Township:	James Woodrum
#2	Carlisle Township:	James Wright
#3	Eaton Township:	Jason Richardson
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#5	Grafton Township:	Dominic Ferritto
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#16	Amherst Township:	Neil Lynch (Vice-President)

Yours truly,

James R. McConnell

James R. McConnell, President