



**Lorain County
Rural Wastewater District**
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MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

April 2011

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

By: Robert J. Berner

The dawning of spring is often also accompanied by rain and an occasional snow shower. As we enter April the early forecast seems to be inline with the traditional April showers. Let's look forward to the May flowers.

The last several months our monthly news letters have focused on updates on our Phase I project in Eaton and Carlisle Townships. I want to begin to shift our focus away from this single project and begin to share with our member communities the additional value LORCO provides our members. With this in mind, in the future our focus will be helping to show areas LORCO can provide input and assistance to our member communities in fulfilling our mission and purpose.

Last summer I shared some information on the impact of the new rules and regulations affecting home sewage treatment systems resulting from the passage of Senate Bill 110. Since a majority of our member communities and member households are serviced by home sewage treatment systems I believe it is appropriate to continue to provide updates on the effects of SB 110.

First, on July 1, 2010 many of the suspended rules of Section 3718 of the Ohio Revised Code became unsuspended. One of these suspended rules applied to local health districts ability to take action to prevent or abate imminent and substantial threats to surface or ground water from an improperly operating or failing sewage treatment system. These rules are now in effect giving the county health department the ability along with the county prosecutor to take action against homeowners.

Second, most of the provisions of the Senate Bill 110 became effective on September 17, 2010. Some of the effective changes which might affect homeowners include: 1) new definitions for: a) a public health nuisance, b) bedrock, c) gray water recycling, d) infiltrative surface, e) soil, f) vertical separation distance, g) water table and h) inspection. 2) SB 110 requires new statewide rules be written and adopted after January 1, 2012. The rule writing process is anticipated to be a difficult process and many county health departments serve on the rules committee. Implementing the rules and having practical application of the rules is an area the committee recognizes to be important.

Third, the rules to be applied after January 1, 2012 will require site evaluation to include soil conditions, topography and lot size. The rules will also allow for the progressive alteration or repair of failing systems. There are many other rules but, these are two of the important concerns for our members.

I hope you all found this information helpful. Until next month, stay dry.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

By: James McConnell

April begins the new term for our board of Trustees. Each year approximately one third of our members terms expire facilitating either a reappointment or the appointment of new board members. This year one of our founding board members, Ernie Hartman retired from the board. Ernie served the board as president and was instrumental in the creation of LORCO. His knowledge and experience will be missed. I want to wish him the best in the future.

