



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

March 2010

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

By: Robert J. Berner

February was a busy month for LORCO and March looks to be just as busy. The weather in Northeast Ohio has certainly been challenging.

The construction on our Eaton/Carlisle Townships system has been going steady. We currently have over seven miles of pipe installed in the collection system. There continues to be positive progress in addition to some construction challenges. The contractor working on State Route 82 installing the system's main collector line faced some unforeseen soil conditions while boring under State Route 82 at Durkee Road. The boring is complete but did take a little longer than expected. Because of the nature of the work the contractor was required to work extended hours. We do apologize for the inconvenience this may have caused some of the residents.

Construction on other parts of the system is going as planned. The contractors are actually ahead of schedule on many of the contracts. The weather again has been a challenge and the contractors have been advised to try to keep the job sites and streets as clean as possible during construction. The snow and rain has made for a messy situation but I want to assure you the contractors are doing their best to keep things clean and tidy.

I feel it is necessary to also update our membership concerning our legal expenses. LORCO has been fortunate to receive considerably low bids on our construction. We also recently received confirmation of the award of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) in Federal Stimulus Funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. These two sources have allowed our project to cost considerably less than estimated. We are however encountering higher than anticipated expenses with legal fees. LORCO has been faced with extensive lawsuits filed by the City of Elyria and other property owners who have not been supportive of the LORCO concept. I hope we can quickly and amicably resolve these lawsuits because it is in

the best interest of all our benefited users to do so. Every dollar contributed to legal expenses means less savings being passed on to our benefited users. Ultimately it is our customers who are paying for these lawsuits.

Finally, the development of our long term strategic plan for LORCO is going well. Board President Jim McConnell and I will be visiting all our member communities in the next two months to update our members on our current efforts along with sharing the strategic plan for accomplishing our mission throughout the district. It is both an exciting and challenging time to be part of LORCO. I believe our mission makes more sense now than ever to continue to foster intercommunity cooperation and development for the rural areas of Lorain County.

Have a safe and enjoyable March and remember everyone is Irish on March 17th.

If you have questions about the current status of the project, please call 440-647-4882. Our office hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, except holidays.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

By: James McConnell

Greetings. Since Mr. Berner took up so much space I will be brief.

First, the terms of one third of our board members will expire the end of March. We look forward to seeing both renewed terms and new board members coming to the LORCO board in April.

Second, as Mr. Berner mentioned we will be attending the legislative meetings of our member communities in the next two months. We believe it is important to keep our members informed. It has been thirteen years since the formation of LORCO and many of our member communities have new representatives. We want to answer any question or concerns and update our members on LORCO's progress and future plans.

Until next month.

Jim

