



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

October 2010

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

By: Robert J. Berner

Autumn is such a beautiful time of the year in Northern Ohio and as we move into fall we are nearing the completion of our Phase I Sewer Project in parts of Eaton and Carlisle Townships. The project consists of ten different contracts and three of the contracts are near 100% complete with only site restoration work remaining. The other seven contracts are all progressing. Some are near completion and some have experienced delays. We are currently looking at moving back the substantial completion date of November 4, 2010, at least two months. The project now looks like completion will be sometime after the first of next year. I will keep everyone updated in future newsletters on the date we anticipate the system to be fully operational.

I thought it important to share this month the impacts sewers are having in other districts. In the October 2, 2010, edition of the Cleveland Plain Dealer the headlines read, "Sewer Use Fees Could More than Double by 2016 under Proposal." The articles deal with the effects of water pollution in the rivers and lake as a result of untreated sewage. The results of regulations are capital improvement projects being imposed upon communities to comply with the Clean Water Act. Several major cities throughout Ohio have been given findings and orders to comply with the EPA mandates or face severe fines. The communities are required to submit plans to achieve compliance to be able to continue their operations under consent decrees. If they do not submit a plan to achieve compliance they risk substantial fines.

I raise these issues to our member communities because of the progress LORCO is making to help our communities attain compliance with the Clean Water Act. The 2008 Annual Report from the Black River Remedial Action Plan demonstrated a significant problem in the Black River watershed with improper functioning home sewage treatment systems. It is one of LORCO's stated goals to work with our

member communities to address problems which are detrimental to the ecology of our natural waterways now and in the future.

At LORCO, we are committed to our communities to help assist in developing alternatives to achieve a clean environment by cost effective means. The Phase I project is an example. The impact this project will have on the environment for today's generation and future generations is immeasurable. Even in the face of adversity and detractors it has been encouraging to see the LORCO board members remain steadfast for thirteen years committed to the mission and goals of the organization. Without this commitment, our future generations would not benefit from the positive steps taken to improve our environment.

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

Well, the summer has finally come to an end and as we move into the fall it is encouraging to see the progress as we near completion of the Phase I Project. The board of trustees will be tackling a major concern over the next few meetings as we evaluate our monthly rate structure.

The policy and finance committees have been busy reviewing multiple rate options designed to ensure fair and equitable rate plans for our customers. These are not easy decisions. The committees have to look at both affordable rate options while at the same time ensuring the cost of operations are accounted for.

Remember, LORCO is a non-profit organization supported entirely by rates charged to our customers. We have to ensure we provide the proper balance between affordable rates and sufficient revenues. I am confident the committees will make good recommendations to the board to fulfill this objective. Our goal is to implement the recommended plan for 2011.