

**DRAFT
TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
302 MAIN STREET
OLD SAYBROOK, CT 06475-2369
Out of District Public Education Session**

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

The Town of Old Saybrook Water Pollution Control Authority met on Wednesday, June 10, 2009, in the Old Saybrook Middle School, 60 Sheffield Street, Old Saybrook, CT to conduct a Public Education Session on the Decentralized Wastewater Management District program for the areas of Town outside the Wastewater Management District (Focus Areas.)

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pavel Wilson at 7:00PM.

II. Introduction of WPCA and Staff

Chairman Pavel Wilson, George Gwizd, Mike Evangelisti, Chuck Wehrly, Nelson Engborg, John Claffey, and Doris Zumbroski, Don Lucas, WPCA Coordinator, Robbie Marshall, WPCA Info. Specialist and members of the public were in attendance.

III. Public Information Session for Out of District.

IV. Questions and Answers

Q: What do you foresee as the cost of those who do not live in the wastewater management district?

A: We estimate the cost as 40 million dollars. The homeowners pay half of the cost. That amounts to 20 million dollars. Another 25 percent is reimbursable by the CT Clean Water Fund. The effect on the mill rate and property taxes has yet to be precisely quantified.

Q: How many taxpayers are there going to be to pay for the town's systems?

A: There are about 10,000 people in the town.

Continued conversation about payments and reimbursement.

Q: With the difficulties the state is having with the budget is there any possibility that the state clean water funding might be cut back?

A: The DEP said that the funding will be set aside for the first two years of the program.

Q: It's unfortunate but I don't think we were properly represented in court. The judge gave Old Saybrook 30 days to appeal; to challenge the science of the State and Old Saybrook never did. I'd like to know why. That was a time when Dr. Saunders said the

WPCA Public Education Session for Out of District Areas: June 10, 2009

evidence wasn't worth much. So there was ample justification for making that challenge. That's why I feel that court case was fundamentally flawed. Not only that but the judge, from what I gather, didn't guarantee that the evidence used in the court was sufficiently scientific. So what I gather was that there was never any statistically significant scientific evidence of human pollution presented.

A: There is no appeal. The motion went through the state court and there was no appeal.

Q: Does the town pick up the cost of engineering and designing of septic systems of vacant lots?

A: The program is designed to repair existing systems, so design is not needed for new systems.

Q: Does this increase the assessed value of the property?

A: I don't believe that it would because the assessor is not usually aware of such systems.

Q: Some systems are not within the focus areas, does that mean that they don't have a problem?

A: No, it just means they are not being addressed as part of the WWMD program.

Discussion about Centralized Treatment Plants

Q: Could you charge Clinton and Westbrook and save Old Saybrook some of the charge?

A: The solution is specific to Old Saybrook, so no, we couldn't charge them.

Q: Why wasn't the Dock and Dine included in the program?

A: The Dock and Dine system is a DEP permitted system. The town has no jurisdiction over Dock and Dine.

Q: Is there any document that states the evidence that we're are polluting the water?

A: In 1996 we established monitoring of groundwater. We sampled 4 times a year and then we sampled once a year. We thought the results were good. Nitrogen and ammonia levels were not at very high levels. The DEP said that we do have pollution even though there is no evidence of gross pollution. So we have to fix it.

Q: Did anybody consider the installation of incinerated toilets?

A: We looked at units before but we have more than just toilet wastewater. There is kitchen and washing machine wastewater.

Q: Can you expand a two-bedroom house to a three-bedroom house?

A: You have to meet the public health code and Zoning regulations for such an expansion to be permissible.

Conversation about DEP and pollution levels

Q: The state said we had pollution and had high urea counts correct?

A: Yes, as a result of normal human impact with inadequate treatment.

Q: I asked at the last meeting that we should put a recorder in so we can hear the questions that are being asked here tonight.

A: Next week at the town hearing there will be microphones in the audience.

Q: With the 8-year duration of the program has the cost of living allowance been incorporated into the estimates?

A: No they are present-day dollars.

Q: What about the homeowners in the later groups? Have them implement the system sooner instead of paying more?

A: That may be true, but we're also figuring that with experience, the evaluations will improve thereby saving money for the homeowners.

Q: Has the DEP threatened any condemnation of properties?

A: No. But it can be done if the vote goes down.

Q: If we can't comply with the upgrades within 7 years will there be a penalty?

A: No. The DEP realizes that this is a program that will take some time and effort and it is a slow process.

Q: What is going to be done about the commercial properties not covered by DEP permits?

A: They will be required to be brought to code, 24 inches to groundwater, 2nd grease trap if a food establishment, etc.

Q: What are the criteria and requirements for the systems?

A: They are negotiated. We send them a proposal and they send back what they believe will work. The more realistic the proposal the better the results we will receive.

Q: What about the residential properties outside of the WWMD boundaries?

A: The DEP has not indicated they will be seeking a remediation program outside of the WWMD. However, the WPCA will continue to enforce the public health code and require fixing of failed systems.

Q: Will the town have to put in an AT system?

A: Yes, Harvey's Beach and Town Beach will have to put in an AT system because they are in the wastewater management district.

Q: Did you say there is going to be a public hearing next week?

A: Yes.

Q: Will the DEP be there at the public hearing?

A: That is correct. They will be looking forward to it.

Discussion about funding

Q: How will the loans from the Small Cities Grant work?

A: The zero-interest loan will be granted to the homeowner, and a lien will be put on the property until the loan has been fully repaid.

Q: If I'm not in the WWMD can I qualify for a loan?

A: Outside of the WWMD a homeowner may qualify for a Small Cities Grant, but the Clean Water Fund is only for the WWMD program.

Q: It is not fair to pay the same amount of money that the people live there all year round do if you're only there for 2 and a half months.

A: The levels found during monitoring have shown a tendency to rise with the influx of summer occupancy.

Q: So you're asking people to vote for the WWMD when you haven't even made a decision on the product?

A: That is correct. The technology is changing all the time. We need to retain the flexibility to choose the best solution available at the time of implementation.

Q: The 6-8 hundred dollar fee is for maintenance of advanced treatment systems.

A: Yes.

Q: What about the benefit assessment for sewer hookup?

A: The benefit assessment would go against the owner and is limited by statute. It would only apply if there is a central sewage treatment plant.

Q: What about Essex? Aren't they in the same situation as Old Saybrook?

A: DEP will draw upon the Old Saybrook results to help suggest implementation approaches in neighboring towns.

Q: When's the vote going to come for the referendum?

A: August 11th.

Q: Why should my AT system continue to be monitored during those months when I'm not home and the water has been shut off?

A: AT systems that have quick start-up may be able to shut-off and restarted a within short time period prior to occupancy resuming in May. Monitoring could be adjusted accordingly.

The meeting ended at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Old Saybrook Water Pollution Control Authority

Robbie A. Marshall

WPCA Recording Clerk