

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

WWW.OSWPCA.ORG

Frequently Asked Questions

Public Education Presentation

Maps of Wastewater Management District & Focus Areas and Focus Areas

Legal Documents

Meeting Minutes

DEP Correspondence

Links & Contact Information

**CT General Statutes:
Municipal Wastewater Treatment**

Sec. 22a-428. Orders to municipalities to abate pollution. If the commissioner finds that any municipality is causing pollution of the waters of the state, or that a ***community pollution problem** exists, or that pollution by a municipality or a community pollution problem can reasonably be anticipated in the future, he may issue to the municipality an order to abate pollution.

Sec. 22a-423. Definitions. **.....*community pollution problem means the existence of pollution which, in the sole discretion of the commissioner, can best be abated by the action of a municipality.**

*Upcoming Events:
Neighborhood Meetings
Septic Installers' Roundtable*

WPCA. DWMP. WWMD. What do these letters mean? How will they impact me?

The Old Saybrook **Water Pollution Control Authority**, along with the Board of Selectmen and their legal and engineering consultants, have proposed to implement a **Decentralized Wastewater Management Program (DWMP)**.

This program is an onsite solution (in this case individual septic systems) to the CT Supreme Court Stipulated Judgment, ordering Old Saybrook to resolve groundwater pollution cited by the CT Department of Environmental Protection.

The engineering firm of Fuss & O'Neill has recently completed the Draft Facilities Plan (available in the Acton Public Library and Town Hall) which includes background, definitions, maps, comparison of alternatives, estimated costs, proposed implementation schedule, etc. The maps depict the 15 focus areas (1900 properties) within the **WWMD (Wastewater Management District)** which is where the DEP has required the program begin.

The DWMP will impact every resident in Old Saybrook. It already has. Even in the development process, your tax dollars support it. Homeowners who live in the Wastewater Management District will be more directly impacted as they may be required to upgrade their septic systems. Upgrades will cost anywhere from \$0 (if a property does not abut surface water, is already compliant with the Upgrade Standards and it



needs nothing additional) up to approximately \$28,000 for an Advanced Treatment System.

Grants, low interest loans, service support (engineering and remote monitoring to be provided by the Town) will make up 50% of the expense. Help is available for those who need it.

The estimated cost of the DWMP is \$45 million. The cost of installing a Centralized Wastewater Treatment Plant fed by sewer lines and pumping stations which would discharge into the CT River would be over \$71 million (not including the cost of needed property). This cost would be over \$30,000 for each household in the WWMD.

If residents, regardless of their location, do not turn out to vote, or vote "No" to "Sewer Avoidance," the other alternative will be a greater impact to all residents.

Voting "No" will have a tremendous physical impact on the Town's streets, as well as aesthetics, tourism, and ecology. It has future implications for the River, the Long Island Sound, and the Town's Slow Growth policy.

"No" to Sewer Avoidance jeopardizes State funding for the Centralized project, as timing may not coincide with Clean Water Fund availability.

If this newsletter has prompted some questions, please access our website or contact us!