



Lorain County
Rural Wastewater District
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www.lorco.org

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE TOWNSHIPS AND VILLAGES 2004

LORCO has forged through the year of 2004 in anticipation that construction would soon begin on Phase-I. It was ultimately recognized that construction wouldn't begin until early 2006. We are now at a point that we can say with a high degree of confidence that financing is in place and final engineering for the project will begin in the next few months. Equally as concerned are a significant number of home owners who have failed on-site septic systems that are in need of replacement and potential new home builders that understand the need for sewers and don't want to build with costly on-site systems. Timing is everything but, in the start up phase of establishing a utility, timing takes its position on the priority list somewhere following financial and regulatory considerations.

There has been a concerted effort to begin construction on Phase-I. Many good people are supporting the whole concept of central sewer collection for the future of rural Lorain County. However, history has already shown us, if it's worth doing, it's worth doing right the first time. The townships and villages participating in LORCO are extremely cognizant of the virtues of planning for the future and having tools like LORCO at their call. The "no growth" opposition is fading and the realists are planning for the future rather than hide from it.

LORCO officials waded through Federal regulations in 2004 and have gained immeasurable insight regarding the various issues of financing and cost projections. In anticipation of Federal funding and while waiting for commitments we found that private capital can be obtained as equitably as Federal financing. However, certain Federal guarantees are in place to support cost effective programs on the open market.

In review, the accomplishment of a tremendous amount of background work puts LORCO in the fast lane for 2005 funding. A working time line has been put into place with the help of GRW Engineers, Inc. and Schottenstein, Zox and Dunn, LPA Bond Counsel. These two organizations are the most important controls of how and when construction of central sewer lines will begin.

The LORCO organization is at a point where time is becoming more critical and the internal legislative and administrative operations are required to produce at a faster pace. Heretofore a lot of mainstream and optional planning has been discussed. Treatment options have been considered with more than one certified treatment center. Feasibility studies for areas, other than LORCO's

Phase-I core service area, have been finalized. At times it almost appears that we are putting the cart before the horse.

Today our direction is clear. The board of trustees has reaffirmed the Phase-I plan for Carlisle and Eaton Townships. Final engineering will solidify all technical issues and bond counsel will lead the team to an equitable financing package. The results will ultimately be a cleaner and safer Black River by eliminating a significant number of non-point source polluting septic systems along with a plan to service inevitable growth at the same time.

A cleaner environment for all of Lorain County, now and in the future, is the cornerstone on which the LORCO organization is built. Knowledgeable people and good planning practices are the tools by which LORCO will grow. Recognize the positives of planning for the future, get involved, support your LORCO team.

If you have any questions regarding the Rural Lorain County Wastewater District call 647-4882 or visit us on-line at www.lorco.org and use the e-mail capability.

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Yours truly,

James R. McConnell, President