



**Lorain County  
Rural Wastewater District**  
22898 West Rd., PO Box 158  
Wellington, OH 44090-0158  
440-647-4882 • 440-647-4870

[www.lorco.org](http://www.lorco.org)

## ***ANNUAL REPORT TO THE TOWNSHIPS AND VILLAGES 2010***

The Board and Staff of LORCO continued the progress made in 2009 and moved forward with construction of the Eaton and Carlisle Township project in 2010. LORCO's construction manager, Avon Lake Municipal Utilities, worked with five different contractors on the ten separate construction contracts to build the collection system in Eaton and Carlisle Townships and install a thirteen mile forced main to the pollution control center in Avon Lake. Approximately eighty-five percent of the project was completed in 2010.

LORCO began 2010 with two important concerns addressed in January. First, a substantial amount of LORCO's deferred debt was paid down with the OWDA construction loan. This allowed LORCO to move much of the accumulated debt associated with the planning and development of the Phase I project to be transferred to project expenses. The importance of removing the deferred debt to LORCO is significant. First, it allows LORCO to be a stronger organization financially and second, it frees up the organization to pursue new projects in other areas of the county.

January also saw LORCO renew their efforts with developers in the Voluntary Participation Plan (VPP). The policy committee recommended some changes to the VPP program which were adopted by the board of trustees. These changes allowed the VPP program to be more attractive to developers.

In February the executive director was busy working on two areas for the board. First, he met with representatives from South Amherst, The International Real Estate Group (IRG) and the county administrator. The purpose was to renew the efforts of LORCO in the western portion of the county. Improving relationships with the county commissioners was a major goal for LORCO in 2010. The development of a collection system in the western portion of the county continues to be an important issue for LORCO as the organization evolves.

Also, in February the executive director began the process of developing a long term strategic plan for LORCO. Having a road map for progress has allowed LORCO to focus on the importance of developing projects, financial stability and diversity in services. Sound strategic planning will be the key to our long term success.

March began the process of meeting with our member communities. The executive director and I scheduled meetings in all sixteen (16) of our member communities in 2010. The purpose was to first introduce our new executive director, Rob Berner, and second to update our communities on our current efforts. In March we visited; the Village of South Amherst, Grafton Township, Henrietta Township, Huntington Township, Camden Township, Pittsfield Township and Eaton Township.

March also brought with it the comprehensive report completed by the Lorain County General Health District on home sewage treatment systems. This report was compiled over a two year period. The information was done by sampling over 1000 home systems throughout Lorain County. The report revealed a failure rate of over 50% on home sewage treatment systems. The failure of home sewage treatment systems was also an issue for state legislation. Senate Bill 110 concerning new regulations on home sewage treatment systems became an issue in Columbus. Addressing the concerns with home sewage treatment systems is one of the planks of the long term strategic plan for LORCO.

April continued the meetings with member communities. In April we visited; Carlisle Township, Elyria Township, LaGrange Township, New Russia Township, Rochester Township and Wellington Township. These meetings continued the progress of updating our communities and receiving feedback on LORCO's impact in the rural areas. April also began the process of updating our Tap-in fee structure. The executive director and the policy committee began the process of updating our code to reflect the impact different types of connections have on the sewer system. A new tap-in fee structure was eventually adopted by the entire board.

May was a busy month for construction as the crews made tremendous progress with the break in the weather. Also in May, the executive director met with the Village of Kipton to review a prior feasibility study done in 2005. The village is concerned with the condition of the home sewage treatment systems in addition to the concerns with not being able to develop businesses on Main Street do to a lack of sewers. Kipton became a 2010 priority for developing a plan to provide a sewer collection system.

June concluded the visits to our member communities with visits to both Kipton Village and Rochester Village. June also saw the passage of SB 110 which substantially impacts home sewage treatment systems. The mood among the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency is to try to eliminate home sewage treatment systems throughout the state. This will be a challenge for LORCO in years to come to provide low cost and efficient collection sewers as an alternative answer to some of the problems with home sewage systems.

July was a slow month for LORCO. We were invited to the Lorain-Medina Rural Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting at the fairgrounds. Construction continued with good weather conditions into August allowing for progress on the construction project. August also allowed the entire board to tour the construction sites following the regular meeting in August. It was good to have the board see the progress and the extent of the construction project.

September was a good month for LORCO. A change in our facility planning area allowed for our Phase I project to extend further east on Royalton Road. This change was unanimously approved by our county commissioners. September also brought news of the approval of the preliminary development of Carpenter Farms in Eaton Township. This plan includes the construction of over 500 new homes. We are hopeful this project will begin in 2011 and help LORCO reach its goals for new home construction in our Phase I project.

October was a challenging month for LORCO. We spent a great deal of time resolving legal concerns with the City of Elyria. An agreement was finally reached and all parties are now able to move forward with a cooperative plan for the future.

November and December ended 2010 addressing planning issues. We continued to look at ways to provide sewer treatment for Kipton Village and the executive director met with the City of Oberlin and the Village of Wakeman. These options will be further explored in the future. Concerns with sewers also developed in LaGrange Township. Director Berner attended a meeting in the township to address the concerns of residents and to assure them LORCO works in their interest.

Your Board of Trustees remains committed to the mission and goals of LORCO. We will continue to plan, evolve and address the ever changing environmental concerns affecting sanitary sewers in rural Lorain County. We are ever mindful to address pollution issues and provide additional land utilization options for the communities we serve. The board's job is to keep the cost as low as possible and at the same time provide top-level service. As we move forward with completion of the construction and begin the operations of the Eaton and Carlisle Township project LORCO is doing our part to create a better environment for current and future homeowners.

For further information visit our web site [www.lorco.org](http://www.lorco.org).

The LORCO Board of Trustees

#1	Camden Township:	James Woodrum
#2	Carlisle Township:	James Wright
#3	Eaton Township:	Jason Richardson
#4	Elyria Township:	Rick Hutman
#5	Grafton Township:	Dominic Ferritto
#6	Henrietta Township:	Howard Born
#7	Huntington Township:	Ernest Hartman
#8	LaGrange Township:	Rita Canfield
#9	New Russia Township:	John Piwinski
#10	Pittsfield Township:	James McConnell (President)
#11	Rochester Township:	Gerald Cowie
#12	Wellington Township:	Louise Grose
#13	South Amherst Village:	Thomas Lahetta (Sec-Treasurer)
#14	Kipton Village:	Robert Meilander
#15	Rochester Village:	Cindy Kurpely
#16	Amherst Township:	Neil Lynch (Vice-President)

Yours truly,

*James R. McConnell*

James R. McConnell, President