



CLEARWATER RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

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March 28, 2018

Re: Clearwater Harbor & Hidden River Communal Sanitary Sewer Systems
 Nitrogen Mitigation & Analysis Plan (NMAP) Implementation Update

PURPOSE

The Clearwater River Watershed District (CRWD) has prepared this letter to update residents of the Clearwater Harbor & Hidden River Communal Sanitary Sewer Systems on efforts to implement the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency’s (MPCA) mandated Nitrogen Mitigation & Analysis Plan (NMAP). This plan is a requirement of the MPCA’s operating permit both systems fall under. The CRWD, as owner and operator of the systems, is mandated to implement this plan.

CURRENT SCHEDULE

Task	2018												2019											
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
MPCA certifies project			X																					
Submit 2019 Public Facilities Authority’s PSIG (80% grant) program application			X																					
Public Facilities Authority’s PSIG (80% grant) funding announcement					X																			
Hold Public Hearing						X	X	X																
Steps Below Contingent on PSIG Funding																								
Advertise for Bids									X	X														
Award Bids										X	X													
Submit Certified Bids to MPCA										X	X													
Construction											X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					

BACKGROUND

The two sewer systems are located north of Clearwater Lake. The systems treat wastewater for 112 properties in a manner that must protect groundwater as well as nearby surface waters from sewage pollution. Both systems were constructed in the early-to-mid 2000s at a cost of ~\$2 million, paid for by residents via special assessments.

The systems are permitted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The permits have a robust set of requirements which includes groundwater monitoring for nitrogen levels. The original MPCA permit required monitoring of nitrogen via groundwater wells, but in 2014 the permit changed to require that nitrogen not exceed 10mg/liter. One of the monitoring wells located down-gradient of the drain fields for the two systems has had total concentrations above 20mg/liter, exceeding the MPCA policy standards. As such, the MPCA mandated the CRWD address these levels and develop a nitrogen mitigation and analysis plan (NMAP). By May 30, 2019, the CRWD must demonstrate to the MPCA the nitrogen policy standards are being met in order to comply with the permit.

In implementing the NMAP, the CRWD has accomplished the following:

- Held public information sessions for residents of the two systems to provide input;
- Conducted detailed engineering analysis to determine potential alternatives to meet permit requirements;
- Prepared cost analysis to estimate potential costs;
- Secured placement of the project on the state's project priority list, increasing opportunities for grant funding;
- Contacted state legislators for the support of state legislation to increase grant funding;
- Conducted a detailed hydrogeological investigation to better quantify what is occurring with groundwater to provide better information for project design;
- Hosted a listening session where residents could voice concerns directly with their local legislators;
- Completed a Technical & Cost Specifications Report and memorandum on funding/ financing;
- Completed the design for a nitrogen mitigation system and submitted the same to the MCPA for approval;
- Solicited support from state legislators for the upcoming re-application to the state Public Facilities Authority for 80% grant funding.

CLOSING

The Clearwater River Watershed District is committed to the residents of Clearwater Harbor and Hidden River to resolve the nitrogen mitigation issue in a long-term, fiscally responsible manner. Feel free to contact the CRWD using the information above, or by e-mail at: cole.loewen@crwd.org.