

# Logan County Water Pollution Control Customer Update

## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Upon the retirement of Mr. Garis Pugh, the Logan County Commissioners selected Chris Clark as the new Director of the Logan County Water Pollution Control District. Mr. Clark comes from the City of Sidney having served as their Utilities Director and Public Works Director.

Mr. Clark has an Associate's Degree in Environmental Resource Management and holds a State of Ohio Wastewater Class IV License and a State of Ohio Water Class III License. Mr. Clark is a certified Master Water Modeler. Mr. Clark has over 30 years of experience in the water and wastewater industry. Mr. Clark started with the District on June 18, 2012 and has hit the ground running dealing with several complex regulatory issues.

## FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to be working for Logan County as their new Director for the Water Pollution Control District. The Indian Lake area is rich in history and the residents have shown a lot of effort in protecting the water quality of Indian Lake and the Great Miami River. I hope that I can contribute to this tradition.

This brochure is intended to provide an update to the customers of the District on the complex issues that we are dealing with including compliance with Ohio EPA directives that will result in additional capital expenses.

Some of the changes that will be forthcoming are necessary in order to meet the Ohio EPA directives. I am committed to working for the District residents and to address all of your sanitary sewer needs.

Chris Clark - Director

## CAPACITY, MANAGEMENT, OPERATIONS, AND MAINTENANCE (CMOM) PROGRAM

One of the challenges that the Ohio EPA is requiring the District to complete is the development of a CMOM Program.

Essentially, the CMOM Program is the District's efforts to control inflow and infiltration (clean water intrusion) into the sanitary sewer system; the District's efforts to eliminate sewer overflows; and efforts to develop construction standards.

### *Construction Standards and Design Criteria.*

The Construction Standards and Design Criteria will standardize construction practices and sets guidelines for development of new sanitary sewers. The intent is to tighten the sewer system by implementing Best Construction Practices. You can view a draft of the standards and design criteria by visiting our website at [www.logancowpc.com](http://www.logancowpc.com).

*Development of Sewer Use Regulations.* District staff is in the process of developing Sewer Use Regulations which establishes rules and regulations for the District that will be in compliance with the Ohio Revised Code. Once completed, it will be posted on the website.

*Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) Reduction Program.* The Ohio EPA is requiring the District to implement an aggressive program to eliminate clean water intrusion into the sanitary sewer system. Clean water entering the sewer system takes up needed capacity; causes sewer flooding and overflows and is costly to treat at the Wastewater Plant. Some key terms for you to remember are:

Intrusion – clean water entering the sanitary sewer system from yard drains; downspouts; foundation drains and sump pumps. These types of connections are illegal and must be removed from the sewer system.

Infiltration – clean water entering the sanitary sewer system from broken or separated sewer joints or cracks in pipes; leaking manholes; etc..

I&I (inflow and infiltration) originates from both the main sanitary sewers and from private property. The District will be implementing a plan to locate these sources and initiate corrective actions.

*Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) Response Plan.* A sanitary sewer overflow response plan outlines measures that the District must complete whenever an overflow or flooded basement occurs. We are required to investigate all overflows and flooded basements and determine the cause of the event and implement corrective actions.

## BRIEF HISTORY OF OHIO EPA REQUIREMENTS

In 2006, the Ohio EPA issued a Compliance Schedule to the Logan County WPC District requiring major improvements at the Indian Lake Wastewater Treatment Facility and improvements in the sewer collection system. All of these improvements were targeted to reduce I&I in the collection system and for the treatment facility to provide full treatment of all flows coming into the facility.

At that time, the District hired a consultant to prepare a No Feasible Alternative Plan and a General Plan on how the District can achieve compliance by making the necessary improvements. The District negotiated with the Ohio EPA to phase in the improvements over multiple years.

*PHASE I IMPROVEMENTS:* Phase I Improvements were completed in 2010 and involved improvements at the Treatment Plant and Collection System. In particular, at the treatment plant the influent pump station was improved; equalization basins were installed to capture and retain sewage flows during a rain event; ultraviolet disinfection was installed; and biosolids dewatering equipment was installed.

In the collection system, a new pump station and force main was installed in the "Slough" area to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows in this area. The costs of the Phase I Improvements were \$12,000,000.

*PHASE II IMPROVEMENTS:* The Ohio EPA issued the District a new discharge permit in 2011 and is requiring the District to meet its negotiated obligation to continue the improvements with Phase II.

Since July of this year, the District has hired a consultant to complete two studies. The first is an Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Study and the second is the revisions to the No Feasible Alternative Study which was completed in 2006. The District has received a Compliance Schedule from the Ohio EPA with strict deadlines to meet.

The Phase II Improvements will involve additional construction at the Wastewater Treatment Facility to provide additional treatment for wet weather events and extensive improvements in the collection system to reduce/eliminate I&I.

The Logan County Commissioners have approved the purchase of 15 sanitary sewer flow meters and rain gauges. District staff has begun efforts to monitor both dry weather and wet weather flows in the sewer system in an attempt to isolate the areas contributing inflow and infiltration.

The cost estimate for Phase II is unknown at this time. The District will assume additional debt for these improvements thereby necessitating future rate increases.

#### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FEE

In 2008, the Logan County Water Pollution Control District implemented a Capital Improvement Fee to help pay the debt service for the Phase I Improvements and to allocate funds for necessary capital improvements. The Capital Improvement Fee was phased in over several years. However, the \$2.00/month fee scheduled for 2012 was temporarily placed on hold. Due to the need to begin work on an I&I Reduction Program and to replace aging equipment, the \$2.00/month will go into effect on the February 2013 billing.

#### SEWER RATE STUDY

Due to Ohio EPA's requirement of continuing with the Phase II Improvements, it will be necessary to increase the sewer fees to pay for additional debt service. In 2013, District staff will be conducting a Sewer Rate Study to evaluate the best way to structure the Sewer Rates.

We will be looking at refinancing and combining existing debt and look for alternatives to make the users rates more uniform across the District. District staff will share the results of the study on its website when completed.

#### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

The Ohio EPA's requirement to implement an aggressive I&I reduction plan will require property owners to evaluate the condition of their own sewer lateral. If you have downspouts; yard drains; foundation drains or sump pumps connected to your sewer line then you will be required to disconnect them.

Additionally, if your sewer lateral is in poor condition and contributing to infiltration from breaks or cracks in your line then you will be required to make the necessary repairs. District staff will help each property owner to identify these sources of clean water intrusion and provide guidance on the most cost effective way to correct the problem. We are also researching possible financial help for low to moderate income users to help with the cost of repairs.

#### **DID YOU KNOW:**

##### **The Logan County Water Pollution Control District...**

- ◆ **Services an area of over 50 square miles**
- ◆ **Provides sewer collection and treatment services for the Indian Lake Region including the Villages of Russells Point, Lakeview, and Huntsville. In addition, the District provides treatment for the Village of Belle Center's collection system discharge.**
- ◆ **Maintains 29 sanitary pumping stations**  
360 small diameter, low pressure pumping units  
2 treatment plants: *Indian Lake and Flat Branch*
- ◆ **Has over 8,400 sewer connections**
- ◆ **Has an annual cost of**  
\$2,487,500 in operation, maintenance and repair and  
\$1,077,034 in debt service

#### QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

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