

QUESTION- How are the wastewater issues that have been identified by the State of Connecticut currently being addressed while this project is pending and to avoid any further health and safety risks. What is the update on residential drinking water? What will be done to mitigate the damage that is being done to wells due to the current outdated/inferior wastewater systems?

ANSWER- We have not received any further assistance from the State or have been given other advice to avoid future health & safety risks other than the consent order that describes how to remove the pollution issue. The drinking water updates will come from the CT Water Company And Department of Public Health.

QUESTION- What is the plan to address the wastewater issues if the project is abandoned due to cost? Will the plan be like what was done in Old Saybrook? Will beaches be closed?

ANSWER- It is not our intent to abandon the project. The goal of this program is to complete the sewer program in an economically feasible and timely fashion. We do not have plans that are like Old Saybrook. In Old Saybrook over 700 houses on the shoreline still have not been able to get approval for an onsite system and are looking for alternative solutions acceptable to DEEP. Other houses that were near the shoreline had complicated systems that cost up to \$70,000.00 to install due to lot size and ground water levels. The systems also have an expensive yearly maintenance cost to maintain the system.

ANSWER- There is the possibility of beaches closing if the LLHD testing shows levels that exceed the Public Health limits for swimming.

QUESTION- The wastewater issue has further been exacerbated by COVID. Why isn't the State allocating federal COVID dollars for this project which does align with funding guidelines?

ANSWER- there is some COVID dollars put toward the sewer project, we continue to look for more types of funding that can be applied to this project.

QUESTION- What data is there from the Ledge Light Health District testing within the past 5 years to indicate that area septic systems are polluting Long Island Sound?

ANSWER- there has been beach water testing from LLHD that has identified high bacteria levels which caused them to put out swimming advisories to all of the beaches in the project area.

QUESTION- Will the main transmission pipe on Rt. 156 going to New London require costly maintenance due to reduced flow during off season months.

Answer- the system is designed to handle low & high flows without any problems. The yearly operations & maintenance fees will handle those costs.

Question- If I decide to sell my home, will I have to pay my 20-year sewer lien in full at the time of the sale

ANSWER- the 20-year loan is transferrable at time of sale.

QUESTION - If sewers are the best future solution to addressing wastewater issues along Old Lyme beaches why would White Sands and Hawks Nest be excluded from this project?

Answer- White Sand Beach along with Griswold Point and other coastal parts of Old Lyme were deemed a lower risk due to more space between houses, open fields, better soil conditions and greater depth to ground water. There are several houses that have basements as an indicator of deep depth to ground water. Hawks Nest is not excluded from sewers but is being studied and likely to be added later.

Question- Are we likely to see future assessments and fee increases to update the New London facility?

Answer: Yes, we will participate in maintaining the treatment plant based on our volume of use which is much smaller than our loans to build our part of the program. Our annual sewer fee will build a fund to cover these costs.

Question- I keep reading the New London can handle the increase in waste from us but have heard that they have to build a larger treatment facility which originally they planned on just charging the new applicants (us) for the cost.

Answer: New London did not build a bigger plant for us, their plant rating was increased since they invested in more efficient equipment and reduction in what is called Inflow & Infiltration (I&I) which it reduces processing storm water as sewer water. We are purchasing a very small part of their extra capacity (1.5-3%).

Question- Can a independent subcommittee be formed insuring fair and reasonable questions, issues, and practices? There are many issues that have to be resolved and this project has the potential to economically ruin many seniors with set incomes

Answer: You may not be aware, but 7 studies have been performed that all point in the direction we are going. The town formed a task force in 2013, which restarted the WPCA and added volunteer members with various complementary backgrounds that led to hiring professional engineers to complete an evaluation. There is a repeated, theme of try alternate solutions, which have been evaluated to get to this place.

Additional Questions Submitted Prior to Meeting

- Why won't fed infrastructure cover costs of sewer system?(**Answered in presentation**)
- What is the real current cost to an average/typical homeowner at this point in time with inflation and with or without potential grants and funding? (**Answered in presentation**)
- Is there a state law that limits the amount a homeowner can be assessed to the estimated increase in value of the home once sewers are installed? (**Open-Requires DEEP and/or Engineering Input**)
- Are all homes with current septic systems in the beach areas required to hook up to sewers including Pond Road in MBA? (**Miami Beach WPCA will answer**)
Answer: The homes on Pond Rd are no different than any other homes in our association. Everyone will be required to hook up. The WPCA still has to determine a timeframe for hookup which may vary based on location, but, non the less each, each EDU will still have to pay their fair share regardless of when the hookup occurs
- Is there reliable data to determine whether sewers will impact the environment by depleting the aquifer? (**Open-Requires DEEP and/or Engineering Input**)
- Given the massive increase in costs for this project, and all of the concerns raised above, would updating current septic systems and/or installing engineered septic systems be a more realistic and cost-effective alternative to sewers? (**Answered in presentation**)
- In 2019 we were told that the sewers would cost between \$31,000 and \$41,000. I questioned our Board and WPCA at the time because that's a big span. I'm sure there's not a one among us that would enter into that type of agreement when buying a new car or home. Currently we are told by Scott Boulanger, Miami Beach Association WPCA representative, that since and because of the Pandemic the cost has sky rocketed to between \$55,000 to \$65,000 per household. Again, the \$10,000 window. This we were informed at a 5/23/22 virtual sewer meeting. Also we learned that 1.4 million dollars have already been spent and that each household is on the hook for \$6,000 with interest. My question, where does this end? When is the cost just too high to continue with this project? Are there alternatives? I understand that there is no data to support that the beaches are polluting the Sound. My husband and I have tremendous respect for Senator Richard Blumenthal and truly believe he cares about the working people. We wonder if he is aware of what is happening behind the scenes. (**Answered in presentation**)
- Why is town of OL divorcing itself from sewer project? (**Answered in presentation**)
- There is a controversy over individual fees. What is the actual assessment? (**Answered in presentation**)
- What is the issue by OL with beach community? Improvements are being made by owners but town seems to create barriers to Hartford Ave and homeowners. (**Open-Requires DEEP and/or Engineering Input**)

- Estimated cost for sewer project was given in January 2022 before the inflationary increase that started around March 2022 and has continued to this day. **(Answered in presentation)**
- Estimated increase on sewer project increased 30% plus, what additional funding will cover the increase as the 11.3 million will not? **(Answered in presentation)**
- My understanding is the estimated cost from MBA \$65,000 per EDU was on the low bidder, Aren't they supposed to take high and low bids and make an estimate somewhere in the middle and doesn't those numbers increase the overall cost of the Sewer project? **(Answered in presentation)**
- EDU costs for Old Lyme Shores in 2016 was \$39,600 and I'm going to assume Old Colony was somewhere close to it. **(Answered in presentation)**
- What are your last estimated EDU cost and what year was it from as those numbers again can increase this sewer project? **(Answered in presentation)**
- The Old Lyme WPCA stated that they used numbers from other beach associations, I believe they said from 2018, Either way, Costs from those numbers are off and won't the new numbers increase the cost of this sewer project? **(Answered in presentation)**
- Correct me if I'm wrong, it is my understanding that you (referring to Frank Noe) are in the process of putting up condos in Sound View and it would be in the best interest for you if this project continues. Shouldn't you have disqualified yourself on the sewer project because this could be seen as a conflict of interest? **(You are wrong)**
- Another rumor going around is that the residents of Pond Road will be exempt from this sewer project because of the type of system they have. If true, why are they and won't this raise the total cost of this sewer project without them? **(Miami Beach WPCA will answer)**
Answer: This is a false rumor. No EDU is exempt. Answered earlier.
- We keep hearing about how we are polluting Long Island Sound with nitrogen but no testing of the water coming from streams and brooks on the north side of Route 156 (Shore Road) are mentioned. If there is so much nitrogen being fed into the water, why haven't they placed a ban of lawn fertilizer that becomes storm water drainage and why haven't they tested these waterways for pollution? **(Open-Requires DEEP and/or Engineering Input)**
- I heard it spoken from yourself (addressed to Doug Whalen) and other WPAC Chairman's, it seems that every day something else comes up and we hear, we never imagined it and it's not our fault but unfortunately it is as everyone involved are volunteers without the knowledge or experience. **(Statement – No response required)**
- This is a large, complicated project with close to 1,000 homes with the possibility other another 250 plus (Hawks Nest) and what's to say White Sands doesn't get tossed in along with all houses up to the Interstate 95 Bridge, this is unfortunate but true. This sewer project would have been best left to the experts but it's too late for that but it's not too late to stop this sewer project now, the cost is out of control, the ability to handle the increase in waste water by New London

is in doubt and the credibility of many is damaged (Beyond repair?) as the perception being that this isn't for the best for all but only for the few. **(Statement – No response required)**

- Since we are now paying interest on the loan and it is a significant amount of money, should we as a community give the govt a time ultimatum? We can't keep throwing good money after bad, so can we say, get us funding by say December 1 of this year or we are ditching the sewer project and will stick with our septic systems? **(Open-Requires DEEP and/or Engineering Input)**
- How can the property owners who are willing to upgrade with a new efficient septic system having a discharge that addresses issues of bacteria and ammonia with an average price of \$30,000 dollars +/- that have been discouraged for too many years and are facing a \$ 60,000 estimated sewer cost be encouraged and protected? The D.E.E.P order and Ledge Light set back restrictions are not enabling upgrades. Addressing , upgrading, grandfather upgrading property owners options are grossly discouraged. **(Answered in presentation)**
- I heard that if we accept Clean Water Funds, we will not be able to develop areas that have used this money. Is that true? What is the positive impact to the development of the beach area if we use Clean Water Funds? Is the \$11 million dollar package being appropriated by Senator Blumenthal Clean Water Funds? Are there any other funds the town is seeking? If the project is \$55+ million, it seems like we need to offset the cost by more than \$11 million. Where will that money come from? **(Open-Requires DEEP and/or Engineering Input)**