

CANAAN VALLEY DECENTRALIZED WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT FACILITY PLAN NEWSLETTER



PROJECT BACKGROUND

Canaan Valley is an environmentally sensitive area in the Upper Blackwater River Watershed overlaying karst (limestone) geology with groundwater providing source water for residential and commercial needs. Canaan Valley Wastewater Planning has been a critical issue since the development and implementation of the Upper Blackwater Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) in 1998. Written in response to the level of dissolved oxygen falling below the water quality standards set by designated use for trout waters, the Upper Blackwater River was listed on the West Virginia impaired streams list (303d list). Under the Clean Water Act, States are responsible for developing TMDLs for water bodies that are designated as impaired.

The implementation of the TMDL calls for limits on waste load allocation by each of the owners of the Valley's 16 'package plants' – small to medium sized wastewater treatment facilities (WWTFs), and the ancillary collection systems used to transport wastewater to the plants. Most of these plants were originally designed and built thirty or more years ago according to standards of the day. Since the implementation of the TMDL waste load allocations and the concurrent tightening of the effluent standards, plant operators have been struggling to achieve the effluent standards with outdated designs and facilities that are unable to meet those standards. Despite these efforts, the WV DEP has recently served almost all of these WWTFs with Consent Orders to bring the facilities into compliance with their discharge permits. Wastewater collection and treatment improvements are a first step in the restoration of the Upper Blackwater River.

A Canaan Valley Wastewater Facility Plan in 2000 proposed sewerage and interconnection of the existing wastewater systems, termination in one large treatment system, and discharge to the Upper Blackwater River. This study was preliminary in nature. For the 2000 Plan to be viable all existing plants have to connect. The estimated cost of the Plan was \$15.9 million in 2000 dollars. A 2004 Decentralized Treatment Feasibility Study determined that a decentralized approach to upgrading existing wastewater systems appears to be both technically viable and economically advantageous option to the 2000 Plan. The estimated cost of the decentralized approach was \$11.2 million. This study was primarily related to existing treatment system upgrades and, like the 2000 Plan, did not include detailed evaluation of existing wastewater collection systems and the cost of upgrading them as necessary. As a result of the 2004 Feasibility Study, a detailed 2005 Decentralized Wastewater Facility Plan was funded and initiated in late September 2005. Due to Federal funding requirements, the Decentralized Wastewater Facility Plan must be completed by February 26, 2006.

The purpose of the 2005 Decentralized Facility Plan is to build upon the work of the 2004 Feasibility Study. Upon adoption of a Decentralized Wastewater Facility Plan, \$2.8 million in State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) funds have been secured by Congressman Alan B. Mollohan for the implementation of an innovative decentralized wastewater management plan. The grant can be used for 55 percent of eligible project costs. However, the funds have not been obligated yet and there is a possibility they may be reallocated. Thus, it is important that the Canaan Valley Decentralized Wastewater Management Facility Plan be adopted as soon as possible to ensure the full \$2.8 million is used for Canaan Valley.

This Decentralized Wastewater Management Facility Planning project is a collaborative effort with a number of partners including: Canaan Valley Institute (CVI), WVDEP, USEPA, Hamrick PSD, WV PSC, and the Tucker County Health Department. CVI is stewarding the project and the STAG funds.



SCOPE OF WORK

Following is an outline of the activities to be performed as part of the 2005 Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Facility Plan.

1. Public Participation

- Project Meetings
- Public Meetings
- Project Website

2. Comprehensive Decentralized Wastewater Management Facility Plan

- Wastewater Needs Definition
 - Data Collection
 - Existing Needs for WWTFs
 - Existing Needs for Unsewered Areas
 - Future Needs --based on 20 year projections
- Technology Alternatives Screening
- Management Alternatives Screening
- Identification of Technically Viable Scenarios
- Management Alternatives Evaluation
- Selection of Decentralized Preferred Plan

3. Comparative Summary of Decentralized Preferred Plan vs. 2000 Plan

4. Final Recommended Plan

- Engineering description, cost (capital costs, O&M, retirement of existing debt), project funding plan, projected user rates, project schedule, land and easements required, and environmental benefits.
- Brief Environmental Assessment of Plan.

PROJECT WEBSITE

The project web site is an important tool to help disseminate information about the project. As reports are generated, they will be posted there. The website is:

<http://www.lombardoassociates.com/canaan-valley-west-virginia.php>

PROJECT MEETINGS

A Project Advisory Committee was established with representatives from Federal, State, and local regulatory agencies and other stakeholders. Project and public meetings will be held to actively involve the public and stakeholders.

	Project Advisory Committee Meeting	WWTF Owners Meeting	Public Meeting
Dec. 13, 2005	X	6pm Fire Hall	7pm Fire Hall
Jan. 11, 2006	X		X
Feb. 15, 2006	X		X

Public Meeting Topics

Dec 13th – Project overview and description of existing situation and wastewater needs
 Jan 11th – Alternatives analysis
 Feb 15th – Preferred Plan