

Canaan Valley Wastewater Public meeting
December 13, 2005 7:00 p.m.
Public meeting
Canaan Valley Fire Hall

Attendance – Those signing in included: George Constantz, Chris Stadelman, Ken Dzaack, Annie Snyder, Chris Ujvagi, Matt Helmick, Ora Ford, Sherry Beswick, John & Cherie Davis, Tucker Garten, Sarah Fletcher, Sharon Stanzakis, Robert Porter, Joe Drenning, Sam Eichelberger, Virginia Mayer, Kiena Smith, Ed Winant, Rob Stull, Jenny Newland, Lois Nelson, Pio Lombardo.

Welcome and Introductions – Rob Stull

Brief introduction of CVI powerpoint presentation – Jenny Newland

Project History – Rob gave a brief overview of Canaan Valley project. Feasibility of using decentralized systems to address wastewater issues.

Decentralized Feasibility Study - Pio Lombardo

In feasibility study, looked at the feasibility of decentralized approach vs centralized approach. Estimated it was feasible and would cost less.

Explained maps presented.

Karst – soil and bedrock in this area will not hold water. It is porous and water goes through this type of geology quickly. Therefore, related to wastewater it must be treated well, before it gets into karst. Facilities will need to be properly planned so they won't contaminate ground water. Explained CV soils. ~1800 lots developable. 400 lots are currently developed. 16 package plants that serve ski areas and subdivisions. Most have been served with notices from DEP to bring their discharge into compliance. Most are over 20 years old and beyond their useful life. The comprehensive plan currently being developed may make recommendations that individuals with on-site systems (septic systems) should connect to an existing system.

Reviewed maps in presentation

Wastewater Management Entities – Once the comprehensive plan is developed, there will need to be a management entity to implement and manage projects. STAG is available to be used by a public entity. Could be an existing entity – Hamrick PSD, another public entity could manage or a new entity could be created. County Commission could be involved in making decision about the management entity.

Initial investigation on the condition of existing plans has led to the recommendation that all current treatment plants be replaced.

A question was asked if current plants can be brought up to standard? Yes, but it is thought that this wouldn't be cost effective.

Facilities Plan Process -

Facility Plan

Greater level of detail than feasibility study

Used for bonding (funding) purposes.

Discussion of data for inflow and infiltration (I/I) – attempting to get simple monitoring devices.

Planning Process

Existing conditions assessment

Planning period projections

Needs analysis

Alternatives identification evaluation
Management, legal, & institutional issues
Capital budget & user charges
Preferred plan

Explained questionnaire being sent to homeowners. Comprehensive wastewater plan should consider all wastewater issues in CV. STAG can be used for individual as long as it is owned by a public entity. To get STAG grant, it can only be received by a non-profit or public entity. Hamrick PSD qualifies and is considering the option.

Concern was voiced that a centralized system would increase the density of building in the Valley. LAI believes build out can occur with existing wastewater situation. We're not going to recommend changing zoning. We don't see wastewater changing the development potential in Valley.

Next meeting will present a variety of scenarios, then the preferred plan will be selected. Scenario 1 – upgrade; Scenario 2 – combine some sites; Scenario 3 - ?? Preferred will be chosen. What is most cost competitive?

Public participation

Project advisory committee

Interviews with WWTFs

Public meetings

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

January 11, 2006 will be next meeting – same time; planned for Fire Hall if available.

February 15, 2006 will be following meeting same time, same place if available.

STAG Grant – Rob

\$2.8 million for a decentralized system, but requires a 45% non-federal match (\$2.2 M). The match can be fees and loans and can be amortized over 20 years in fee structure. The Grant requires a facilities plan to be in place. It also requires a management entity to be in place., Hamrick PSD is considering its options for taking over management. We are working with WVDEP.

Conceivably the grant could be rescinded therefore, it needs formal action by a public entity so funds can be specifically allocated for certain projects so the money can be secured.

Questions/Comments

Do operators see this as a good thing? Currently, this is a free, voluntary process. Two facilities had not shown any interest. Currently, working with one to get on board. Timberline had just completed their plan. CVSP had theirs completed by another company. Carol Ann from EPA, noted that this is a great opportunity to get these monies.

Who regulates CV wastewater? – WVDEP

Are there any penalties for non-compliance? First WVDEP says you're out of compliance, then a rectification plan is submitted and this facility plan is part of that. If the plan is not presented or followed, then fines can be assessed.

What is the timeline for compliance – It is flexible. Mainly they want to see that progress is being made.

What is the agenda/focus for January 11 meeting? – To provide an update; discuss in more detail expected project costs; and present and discuss alternatives/scenarios. Alternatives will be identified and costed. Setting up to get preferred plan defined. We will need feedback from citizens on the alternatives. February – we will come to the decision on the preferred plan.

Once all facilities are in line, when will private facilities have to be added to these systems? In January, we'll have an initial estimate of how many need repaired. Will also have a general idea of which areas could connect to a system. The management entity will have to accept plan, get bonding authorization then they'll initiate the Engineering work then implementation...approximately 3 - 5 years for completion.

Do you have to go with it? Those existing plants that choose not to become part of public entity can remain private. PSC may require individuals with on-site systems to connect because of costing issues.

Does cost include right of ways? Will it be a vacuum system? Plans compared apples to apples therefore, lines and infrastructure, right of ways were "allowed for" in some areas.

How do you know if you're included? We'll be asking people to share the information with us. In this phase, we won't be coming to each landowner. Citizens can be included by completing questionnaire.

Are new developments in compliance? They have to comply with all current regulations. They need pre-treatment before they discharge into the ground. Will pull all information we can to into project developability. Will talk with those with large tracts and ask about their development plans.

Will private systems sell out to public system? – They can/will transfer ownership of that site to the public entity for improvements or new system. They will then pass the cost onto their customers. Collection system can belong to private entity. The bottom line is that in the end, the users pay. WV PSC also has a limit on fees that can be charged to users. So, there will be limits. Plan to see numbers next month.

Where in the process is the point of no return? Much later. February 26 is deadline to have the facility plan completed. February meeting is "intent" meeting, not "binding" meeting. Public entity will need commitment before they go to get bonding. Ed Winant clarified.

A concerned resident voiced that another conversation that needs addressed is the water system. Water is usually tied to wastewater. Those attending agreed with this statement.

Noted: Public meetings will continue after February

Adjourned 8:30 p.m.