

**Draft Meeting Notes
Wastewater Planning Task Force
August 26, 2008**

A public outreach meeting was held in the Hearing Room at the Town House on Tuesday, August 26, at 7:30 a.m. Present were Task Force members Jeff Wieand, Fred Watriss, Toby Kramer, Town Manager Chris Whelan, Town staff Rich Reine, Marcia Rasmussen, Alan Cathcart and Elena Proakis Ellis, and consultants from Weston & Sampson Laurie Toscano and Kent Nichols.

Since one of the key challenges for the Task Force is to understand the growth potential and needs of the larger water/sewer capacity users in the Town, those property owners identified as such users (based on largest flow volumes) were invited to attend. Six owner representatives attended the meeting. Additionally, the members of the West Concord Task Force (WCTF) were invited to attend so they could begin to get up to speed on the sewer capacity issue and two WCTF members attended.

Town Manager Chris Whelan provided introductory remarks, then turned the meeting over to Laurie Toscano and Kent Nichols of Weston & Sampson. It was noted that the infill capacity identified in the 2004 Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan had been used at a faster rate than anticipated and that the spring 2004 plan was intended to be “growth neutral” and did not take into consideration additional commercial development or “smart growth” principals that were later identified in the 2004 Planned Production Plan for housing (approved in October) and the 2005 Comprehensive Long Range Plan. Laurie provided an overview of the planning efforts currently underway and the need to incorporate future needs of the larger institutional and commercial property owners in order to effectively plan for future need. Kent discussed some of the technical aspects of the study and responded to questions.

Questions asked:

Can water conservation or addressing the inflow/infiltration problem be the answer? – Kent Nichols and Alan Cathcart observed that water conservation could help, but this would not wholly address the issue. Alan provided information about the effectiveness of Concord’s water conservation program over the past ten years and indicated that significant reduction has already taken place. Rich Reine added that a large component of the conservation initiative focuses on outdoor water use, which does not minimize sewer flows. There was also recognition that Concord’s aggressive efforts to improve the overall sewer system had already resulted in a significant reduction of the inflow/infiltration of groundwater and stormwater so there wasn’t as much capacity remaining to be gained. Furthermore, any capacity that could be gained from I/I removal is already earmarked to provide capacity for the future CWMP phases (2, 3, and 4).

Should we be looking at measures to separate waste, utilizing the benefits of waste? – Separating gray water from black water requires a significant investment in the design of new buildings but is much easier to accomplish with new construction than with retrofitting existing structures (e.g., Gillette Stadium, where gray water is used for toilet flushing). Also, Massachusetts Building Code does not make these systems easy to accomplish. There are some examples of reuse of effluent using a “purple pipe” system, where clean effluent from the wastewater plant is piped back to customers for reuse; but there’s also the issue of cost to develop the piping system for reusing effluent. Also the State’s Title 5 constrains property owners with onsite systems because the owner isn’t able to get full credit for separating gray water from black water in terms of the size septic system required given the reduced water usage.

Alan Cathcart added that the current CWMP already requires property owners who are increasing their demand on the municipal sewer system by more than 1,000 gallons to prepare an impact assessment of those increases and provide measures to reduce demand.

Is there adequate water supply for the community? – Alan Cathcart reiterated the Town’s conservation efforts and the focus on reducing irrigation of residential and commercial properties by having a sliding water rate scale for water usage. Alan noted that Concord continues to invest in improvements to the water

supply system and discussed the State and Federal focus on all water management concerns (drinking water, wastewater and stormwater management).

There being no further questions at this time and Town Manager Chris Whelan presented the closing slides which outlined the next steps which the wastewater task force would be taking. This included the development of a recommendation to the Board of Selectman regarding wastewater capacity with a potential Town Meeting warrant article. The invitation was repeated that all property owners interested in participating in the future planning for the community's wastewater needs contact Town staff before the end of September. Those running large facilities were informed that Concord Public Works would be contacting them directly; smaller property owners or others interested in providing input should contact the Concord Planning Division. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

The PowerPoint presentation used in this public outreach meeting is attached.