LBWP WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM - DECEMBER 2021

The LBWP is considering expansion of services to provide sewer service with a centralized wastewater collection system and treatment at the North Conway Water Precinct Wastewater Treatment Facility.

The Commissioners will be providing additional information and an opportunity for residents to vote on the subject at the Annual Meeting. In the interim we thought it appropriate to provide some information on why we are looking at this and how it could impact our customers.

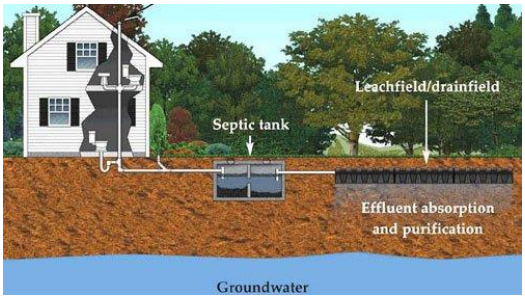
The most significant reason to consider a municipal sewer system is ***GROUNDWATER PROTECTION.***

- The single aquifer serving the drinking water needs of the Mount Washington Valley is downgradient of much of the developed areas in the community and also the areas that have the greatest potential for future economic development.
- The LBWP relies on a single well field downgradient of this development.
- The well head protection area includes 382 acres
- Concerns with future risk of contamination due to increased development causing an increase in nitrate concentration
- There are development regulations in the Well Field Capture Zone to provide additional protection, but growth is still possible
- The LBWP will increase the withdrawal of water from the aquifer due to growth and expansion

A secondary reason to consider a wastewater collection system is to support ***ECONOMIC GROWTH***

Currently the only wastewater disposal method within the Well Field Zone is onsite subsurface disposal systems or ***INDIVIDUAL SEPTIC SYSTEMS***.

- On site wastewater disposal systems are known to be a significant source of nitrate loading to soil and groundwater.
- The primary source of nitrate loading within the well protection zone is on site subsurface disposal systems, there are no large agricultural fields and contribution from precipitation is minimal
- Septic systems have a limited life and many in the area are reaching or exceeding that useful life. Systems constructed in the 1960's and 1970's are past their useful life
- Many homes that were second homes are now used year-round which also increases the nitrate loading
- Potential development based on zoning regulations could increase 70% over current conditions
- 2016 Nitrate study conducted determined there is a potential for increased nitrate in the groundwater at the well field



Do I have to ***CONNECT TO A PUBLIC SEWER***?

- RSA 147:8 has changed little since its enactment in the mid 1800's
- Occupied buildings within 100 feet of a public sewer must connect unless the municipality grants a connection waiver
- The local community can enact local ordinances that are more stringent but no local ordinances are necessary to affect the authority; the statute is complete and sufficient by itself.

How much will the wastewater collection system ***COST?***

- The current opinion of probable cost is $50,604,000 for the 11 miles of gravity sewer, 1.5 miles of force main, 5.7 miles service connections and 4 pump stations.
- The project would likely be phased with four phases. The first phase would include areas with the greatest risk potential to the aquifer.
- The Commissioners are continuing to work on funding solutions including grants and low interest loans, keeping in mind the affordability of the project. User fees have not been established at this point.
- The map below shows the potential areas for sewer collection system.