

LAKE WAPOGASSET & BEAR TRAP LAKE SANITARY DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES, December 8, 2025

The December meeting and Facility Plan Public Hearing of the LWBT Sanitary District was called to order by David Erspamer at 5pm at the District Office.

Commissioners present: David Erspamer Commissioner-President, Mark Tryggestad Commissioner-Treasurer, Dennis Badman Commissioner-Secretary and Mark Jacobson, Commissioner

Employees present: Wendy Weyer Neil Pickard Facility Plan Presenter: MSA- Tom Dye Attendees see attached.

Publication in The Amery Free Press of the Public Hearing notice was acknowledged.

MSA Facility Plan:

Tom Dye of MSA Professional Services gave a presentation of the Facility Plan.

A Facility Plan assesses the current conditions, projects wastewater needs forward 20 years, and evaluates and recommends alternatives to meet these needs.

The ponds leak wastewater into the ground and need to be relined. The two options at this time are pump to City of Amery or Upgrade the current system. Financially the most effective option is to upgrade/reline the current ponds.

The recommended alternative has two phases. The first includes replacing the aeration system, control valves and gates, electrical system and relining main and second ponds. Phase one also includes constructing two new seepage cells. Phase two would be to reline the third pond and upgrade one to three lift stations.

Funding- The DNR has loans through their Clean Water Fund. The current rate is 2.2% for 20 years. The District should be eligible for a grant of 25% principal forgiveness.

Schedule going forward- MSA will incorporate minutes from this meeting and any comments and submit that with the Facility Plan to the DNR for review this month. Preliminary design has begun and the topographic survey has been done. Final design will begin in February and submit final plans July/August. The deadline is September 30 to submit plans and specs for the Clean Water Fund. Advertising for bids and then finalize construction contracts February/March and begin construction in Spring. There can be long lead times for components. There will be two seasons of construction.

Questions: Is there a current goal for the nitrogen limit? The system should be able to lower the nitrogen during the summer months when the bacteria are very active and less so during the cold months.

Were the findings of the soil borings favorable? Yes, but infiltration might be too fast so we may have to slow down the infiltration.

The monthly increase per ERU is that a permanent increase or for a set time? The loan is for 20 years.

Is Grant guaranteed? Nothing is guaranteed but it is what Sanitary District is eligible for at this time and funded through 2026.

DNR pressures and expectations-The current 5-year Operating Permit requires the project to be done by 2029.

How was the median household income determined? This is set by the boundaries of the system and determined by the DNR.

How will this effect customer rates? The Board is looking at increasing the rate by \$150 each year until the project is complete to generate funds to cover preliminary costs and allow us to borrow less. The Board will reevaluate rates when the project is complete.

David Erspamer Commissioner-President motioned to approve and submit the Facility Plan to the DNR, motion was seconded by Mark Jacobson, Commissioner. Motion passed.

Mark Tryggestad Commissioner-Treasurer motioned that we keep rates the same and add a \$150 Capital Campaign line item and seconded by Mark Jacobson. Motion passed.

Commissioner Denny Badman moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Mark Jacobson. Motion passed.

Our next Sanitary District meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 5 at 5:00 pm in the District Office.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wendy Weyer, Recording Secretary