

**Dearborn County Water Quality Management Plan Update
Public Meeting Summary and Survey Feedback: May 10, 2010, 7-9 p.m.
Dearborn County Adult Center, Lawrenceburg, Indiana**

Thirty people attended the public meeting. A 25-minute PowerPoint presentation about the Dearborn County Water Quality Management Plan Update project was given by OKI staff at the beginning of the meeting and is posted on the Dearborn County website. The presentation was followed by time for questions and comments, which are summarized below:

Question: Will the plan clarify sewer service areas?

Answer: The plan will clarify wastewater facility planning areas and identify management agencies to provide treatment within them.

Question: Will the plan recommend a countywide sewer system?

Answer: No recommendations have been developed yet because data is still being gathered and analyzed, and the advisory committee has just begun to meet, so it is too soon to know what will be recommended.

Question: Who is paying for the plan update?

Answer: A grant from the U.S. EPA passed through the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

Question: Has the South Dearborn Service Area been approved for expansion?

Answer: At this point, OKI has not proposed any wastewater facility planning area changes as part of this plan update because the work has only been going on for a few months.

Question: Why did we wait 33 years for a plan update?

Answer: Because we didn't have the funding until now to do one.

Question: Will the public meeting information be available on a website?

Answer: Yes, the public meeting information will be posted on Dearborn County's website at www.dearborncounty.org/waterplan

Following the presentation and the discussion period, staff working on the project were available at the display stations to answer questions. The displays included county maps of watersheds and hill shade; streams and lakes; impaired streams; wastewater treatment facilities and facility planning areas; population trends by township; and future land use.

Those attending were asked to fill out a survey by responding to three questions. The following sections list each question and the responses as received.

1. What concerns do you have about water quality issues in Dearborn County?

- Urban Sprawl – Growth of residential septic service in rural areas just perpetuates what the cities are mandated to stop.
- Septic systems that have been in operation for the past 25 to 30 years.
- Lack of concern re: Sanitation and the lack of proper waste water treatment are related to water quality. Over-fertilization of farm fields – (The attitude that) it's not my problem.
- Pollution or contamination of the local underground aquifer.
- Pollution of local stream from nonpoint sources

- My concern is the sewer problem in the town of Guilford and along State Road 1, between Salt Fork Road and Guilford.
- Dearborn County Regional Sewer District controlling the sewers of Dearborn County. The group is not qualified to do the job.
- Contaminants in the water supply.
- Growth outgrowing supply with water and outpacing capacity with sewage.
- Failing Septic Systems causing bacterial infections. Failing septic systems are a serious problem in Dearborn County.

2. What obstacles do you see to addressing water quality issues in the county?

- Money, education, the ability to work together with other agencies and departments, etc. Greendale dump is a source of pollution in the area – look for PCBs.
- Politics and there is money in water and sewage so organizations fight each other over it, instead of doing what is best.
- Uncontrolled sewage from local sewage systems and businesses.
- IDEM financing DCRSD's acquiring the sewers outside of the existing sewer district through the use of OKI as a mediator to allow what IDEM has approved to become a reality.
- In the past it was funding and some of our leadership with special interests.
- Lack of education on the above (Pollution of underground aquifer and local streams from nonpoint sources).
- Everyone saying that it isn't my problem.
- One obstacle which may seem odd is with the county government - mainly the commissioners office which in the past has approved subdivisions in areas where there is no available sewer systems. With the recent elected official into that office I can see a repeat of this happening again in this county. Money to provide for the proper infrastructure in the county is a major obstacle also.
- Availability of funds, rate impact on smaller areas to keep up with all that is mandated. Aging infrastructure cannot be maintained and we are adding more!

3. What ideas do you have for removing or reducing these obstacles?

- Government and Community Involvement in sewer infrastructure and resources.
- I believe Dearborn County should have one sewer and water district – one supplier.
- Put measures in place to see if goals are met.
- Talk to the existing sewer districts and see what territory they desire.
- I hope with our new leadership and federal funding available we can get something done!
- Better education on the above (Pollution of underground aquifer and local streams from nonpoint sources).
- Request: At least one more (possibly two) public meetings to report progress, proposals, etc.
- Education.
- Try to follow the comprehensive plan and the land use map to provide smart future growth in the county.
- Hold elected officials responsible for doing their jobs – and not filling their pockets