



Chincoteague

WASTEWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Newsletter #1 October 2012

Town Council

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Neighbors and Members of the Business Community:

The Town of Chincoteague is in the process of conducting a comprehensive review of wastewater treatment alternatives for the future. Engineering studies were done in 1976, 1988, and 2008. With each review the Town decided that the time was not right for a wastewater treatment system. Why are we looking at this idea again?

- 1) Virginia has changed the Health Code to require expensive individual lot septic systems that meet advanced technology standards
- 2) Chincoteague Bay water quality is critical to our local seafood/shellfish industry and tourism industry
- 3) Opportunities to encourage private investment that will benefit the entire Town have been presented

In order to address these issues, the Town Council participated with Accomack County in the preparation of a grant funded regional wastewater study, and appointed five (5) representatives to a Town Wastewater Advisory Committee with the following goals to be completed by June 2013

Wastewater Committee Goals

- o Complete a 2 year study/work plan by June 2013
- o Review wastewater needs for the community;
- o Review the regional wastewater study dated March 2011, along with other studies or alternatives, and to present recommendations for action to the Town Council;
- o Review and make recommendations on alternatives for wastewater treatment and disposal, a collection system and force main routing;
- o Provide ideas and suggestions to the Town Council on areas to be provided with wastewater sewer service;
- o Provide suggestions for acquisition of new properties for possible treatment plant or pump station site;
- o Serve as a liaison to the Public and Town Council.

Public Information

The Wastewater Advisory Committee meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 9 am in the Town Council Chambers. All meetings are open to the public and participation is welcome.

This newsletter is the first of a series to share the information collected by the Committee and to present its recommendations to the Town Council and the Chincoteague Island community.



The Regional Wastewater Study (2011) tests the idea of a Phase One public wastewater service area to serve business corridors along Main Street and Maddox Boulevard.

CONCEPTUAL Phase One Public Sewer Infrastructure/Service Area
(Preliminary Engineering Report, Clark Nexsen, 2011)

Town of Chincoteague Water and Sewer Facts

The Town currently serves approximately 3,550 lots with public water (2,500 residential, 1,000 commercial, 50 civic)

Groundwater from wells on the mainland is treated and pumped to Chincoteague along the Route 175 causeway
Between 300,000 and 1.3 million gallons per day are delivered to our year round population/businesses (4,000) and peak-season visitors (25,000)

In 2012, Sunset Bay Utilities extended a force main from their private treatment plant to help remove as much as 7,800 gallons per day from failing septic fields and to support existing downtown businesses and civic buildings

In the last 5 years, over 150 property owners on Chincoteague Island installed advanced treatment septic systems