

Greetings:

On behalf of Lake Washington Sanitary District, and as its Chairperson, I would like to extend holiday greetings to you and provide you with a summary of the activities of the District over this past year.

As you know, the Lake Washington Sanitary District was established by the Order of the Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on December 16, 2002. After an appeal period, the Town Boards of Kasota and Washington Townships in LeSueur County, and the Town Board of Jamestown Township in Blue Earth County met on March 13, 2003 at a joint special meeting and appointed the five volunteer members of the Board on Managers for the District. The five board members are:

Larry Maruska, Chairperson
Jerry Kallheim, Vice-Chair
George Warrant, Treasurer
Rob Bieraugel
Art Zuhlsdorf.

The Board of Managers for the District held its first organizational meeting on April 10, 2003. Officers for the District were elected, and volunteer staff was appointed. Harlan Bloomer served as Secretary for the District for an interim period; Jim Deike now volunteers as District Secretary. Beth Bleasdell was recently appointed to serve as volunteer Assistant Treasurer to help out with the day-to-day duties fulfilled by George Warrant.

Since April 10 and for most of the summer, the Board met twice a month. Beginning in late August, the Board began meeting four times a month to ensure that the objectives of the District, set forth in the MPCA Order, are fulfilled as rapidly and economically as possible. The Board meets in a public working session on the first and third Mondays of each month and meets in a public meeting session on the second and fourth Mondays of each month to attend to official business of the District.

A public hearing on the feasibility of the proposed sanitary sewer system was held on July 14, 2003 and was continued to August 11, 2003 because the first hearing was cut short due to tornadic weather. The Board heard from a number of concerned citizens, the greater majority of whom fully support the project and the Board's efforts. As a result of the Board's efforts, the necessary system design and engineering has been completed in anticipation of beginning construction on the sanitary sewer improvement project in the Spring and early Summer of 2004.

In late May and early June, the Board received proposals from the cities of St. Peter and Mankato for long-term contracts for wastewater treatment services. After carefully comparing

the two proposals, the Board decided to enter into negotiations for a long term contract with the City of Mankato. You probably noticed the public announcement earlier this fall that those negotiations concluded with a contract mutually acceptable to both the District and the City of Mankato.

Earlier this fall, the Board continued a lengthy discussion of Ordinances for the District, which will control wastewater discharges within the District's geographic boundaries, and provide a system for payment for wastewater treatment services and a framework for project costs to be specially assessed to benefitted property owners. The Board also adopted its budget for 2004 and approved a small tax levy to fund its administrative operations, and recently closed on a sale of bonds to fund preliminary project costs, including engineering, legal, administrative and other costs.

Presently, the engineering plans and drawings are being reviewed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and by engineers for the City of Mankato. It is the Board's anticipation that it will receive construction bids on the project in the first quarter of the coming year, with construction commencing in May or June.

In the meantime, and as always, we invite you to attend our public meetings and working sessions, which are held Mondays at 7:00 pm at the Lake Washington County Park pavilion/community building.

Beginning in January, 2004, you will be able to view the District Ordinances, Meeting Agenda, Minutes and other documentation and information regarding District business at www.bolton-menk.com.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to call any one of our Board members.

Sincerely,

Larry Maruska
Chairman of the Lake Washington Sanitary District