



WWTF
Workshop
June 14, 2023

Lewes Board of Public Works

Agenda

- How'd we get here??
- New Information
- Public Comment(s) Received
- Public Comments/Questions
- Conclusion

How'd we get here?

- The Board held its first public meeting on March 31st, 2022.
- The BPW and Sussex County then contracted with GHD to perform a study related to various options for the WWTP.
- Those results were presented to the public at the January 23, 2023 workshop.
- The Board then held workshops on February 10, March 22, April 12 and May 17 to continue with the openness of this decision-making process.

New Information

- The Lewes BPW has met with Sussex County to discuss/outline the potential terms and framework for an agreement related to option 3. Nothing has been agreed too at this time.
- The BPW will begin to compile all relevant information and start working on a DRAFT agreement.
- Additional meetings with Sussex County have been scheduled and will continue to occur as we work through this process.
- No new discussions on the detailed design until the options are narrowed and the necessary studies are complete.
- As options and design progress, the cost schedule will be refined and updated.
- There have been no discussions regarding the potential use of the existing WWTP site.

I attended the latest BPW Wastewater Workshop as a Zoom attendee.

Glad to hear that options 3A & 3B are the ones still under active consideration.

Regarding “purple pipes” - doubt that it would be a viable option except under limited circumstances such as for new developments, crop irrigation, sports fields, parks, etc.

In listening to the discussion, I don't think the proponents of “purple pipes” believed that it was a solution that would handle the entire discharge but might handle “some”. It probably would but at what cost?

Installation cost on a system wide basis would be cost probative without a Return on Investment (ROI) calculation being performed to determine if there is sufficient demand to warrant providing the service.

There were some comments that the “purple pipes” could be placed in the same trench as other utility lines to lower installation costs. That is obvious but it doesn't consider whether “treated effluent” can be placed in the same trench as domestic water or sewer and if so would any special conditions apply such as a “separation distance” or other requirements which would add to the construction/installation cost.

In conclusion, I don't think “purple pipes” for discharge of treated effluent is something the BPW should consider without a serious review. Nice to think “out of the box” but I don't believe it would be a business line that would pay for itself and would result in all ratepayers paying to subsidize the service to a few.

One possibility would be asking local landscaping companies if they would desire to purchase treated wastewater in bulk in order to irrigate their customers lawns or properties. Might be a market without having to extend an expensive in-ground distribution system.

Public Comment(s) Received After May Workshop

Next Steps

- We will continue to have this item as a discussion topic on our monthly Board meetings.
- We continue to encourage the public to attend and be engaged.
- The BPW will consider the need for future workshops or continue blending these discussions into our monthly Board meetings as the process continues.
- Public comment will be open until close of business on **June 30, 2023**.

Public Comments/Questions:

Conclusion

- We want to thank you for your continued input in this decision-making process. We look forward to and encourage residents and ratepayers to attend the future workshops/meetings!

