



WWTF Workshop March 18, 2025

Lewes Board of Public Works

Agenda

- How'd we get here??
- Negotiation with Rehoboth Beach
- Potential Options
- Next Steps
- Public Comments/Questions
- Conclusion

How'd we get here?

- The Board held its first public meeting on March 31, 2022.
- The BPW and Sussex County then contracted with GHD to perform a study related to various options for the WWTF.
- Those results were presented to the public at the January 23, 2023 BPW workshop.
- The Board then held workshops on February 10, March 22, April 12, May 17, June 14 and August 9 of 2023 to promote an open dialogue.

How'd we get here? (continued)

- In the summer of 2023, Sussex County was informed by DNREC that there were significant findings during a Phase 1 archeological study completed at the Wolfe Neck WWTF site.
- These findings have eliminated option 3b (constructed wetlands) as well as the County's plans to install fixed-head irrigation within managed forests.
- These findings prompted the BPW and Sussex County to explore the pros and cons of a regional partnership with Rehoboth Beach using the excess capacity in their existing ocean outfall.

Negotiation with Rehoboth Beach

- In March 2024, BPW and County re-approached Rehoboth Beach with a more detailed proposal.
- The BPW and County attended over 10 Rehoboth Beach Commissioner and staff workshops/meetings throughout 2024 to discuss our proposal, define potential terms, and review financial considerations.
- At a meeting on February 21, 2025, the Commissioners declined the \$20M offer, by a 5-2 vote, expressing several concerns. The proposed financial terms being the determining factor for the denial.
- Due to the outcome of this vote, and the parties being far apart on financial terms, we are now moving on to other options.

Potential Options going forward

We are looking for public input relative to the options below:

1. Continue discharging to the canal at existing location.
2. Discharging into the canal at a location next to the Wolfe Neck facility.

Continue discharging into the canal at existing location

- This Option would include:
 - Pumping BPW's Wastewater to the Wolfe Neck facility.
 - Reconfiguring Pump Stations 4 & 8.
 - Discharging treated effluent on the outgoing tide at the existing location.
- Tertiary treatment at Wolfe Neck facility.
- This is the 2nd lowest cost option and the one with the least permitting issues.
- 2025 Project Capital cost estimate: \$10.5 million

Continue discharging into the canal at a point closer to Wolfe Neck

- This is similar to the prior option, the only difference being a modified point of discharge in using the existing Waste Load Allocation.
- This Option would include:
 - Pumping BPW's Wastewater to the Wolfe Neck facility.
 - Reconfiguring Pump Stations 4 & 8.
 - Discharging into the canal near the Wolfe Neck facility.
- Tertiary treatment at Wolfe Neck facility.
- This is the lowest cost option and has potential environmental advantages. However, it would require a permit modification
- 2025 Project Capital cost estimate: \$3.5 Million

BPW/County Ocean Outfall

- We had considered a new ocean outfall at Wolfe Neck, but the cost is prohibitive, especially compared to the other options.

Next Steps

- We will continue to have this item as a discussion topic and to receive public input at our monthly Board meetings.
- Written public comment is encouraged and may be sent through the Lewes BPW website.
- The BPW will evaluate the need for future separate workshops.

BPW web Portal

The image displays two screenshots of the Lewes BPW web portal. The top screenshot shows the homepage with a navigation bar, a hero section with the utility emergency number 302-645-6228, and a grid of service tiles including 'ONE TIME PAYMENT', 'RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER SAVINGS TOOL', 'CONTACT US', 'RATES & FEES', 'FAQS', 'LEAD AND COPPER RULE', 'WWTF PLANNING', and 'CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM'. A red arrow points from the 'WWTF PLANNING' tile to the bottom screenshot. The bottom screenshot shows the 'WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY LONG-RANGE PLANNING' page, which includes a 'Submit Comments' button, a section for 'Upcoming BPW Workshops', and a list of recent meetings/workshops. A red arrow points from the 'Submit Comments' button to the text 'Submit Comments' on the left.

Lewes BPW
Homepage

Submit
Comments

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!

