

Point O' Woods Association  
Water Pollution Control Authority  
2020 Annual Report

The past year presented the Board with many issues and expenses that had not been addressed previously. Our sewer system has been in operation for ten years. As the system ages, it presents new expenses that needed to be addressed and are added to this year's budget.

We continue to work with the preventative maintenance contractor to monitor any changes in operating efficiencies. There are some items that needed to be replaced. There are bleed valves in manholes along Rt 156 on the 1.5 mile distance to East Lyme. After checking their efficiencies, a replacement of 3 bleed valves was required. The valves were purchased and installation will be complete by April 30th. Our three backup pump station generators had not been working properly. We have addressed the issues with an outside contractor. We have developed a generator maintenance plan to insure the generators perform when needed. Pump station repairs caused by homeowners who continue to flush more than gray water have caused expensive repairs at the main pump stations.

The biocide usage continues to be unpredictable. We monitor it monthly and review it against our monthly usages going back to 2017. Biocide cost per gallon has increased 4% from last year. We were able to negotiate a 2 year contract holding the price firm until mid 2022.

East Lyme's fees for waste water disposal increase as the volume increases. Based on our current volumes, a significant portion of POW's annual output is invoiced at the higher rate. When the volume exceeds 2.5million gallons the costs increase by 10% on the amount over the 2.5 million gallons. The amount owed to East Lyme was under budgeted last year. The annual User Fee for July 1 2020-June 30<sup>th</sup> 2021, will be \$385 per month.

Last summer there were 3 grinder pumps that required replacement. That cost to the homeowner exceeds \$2000. The reason for each of these grinder pump failures were caused by not adhering to the DO NOT FLUSH memo. Please remind family, friends, and renters to abide by the DNF memo. We also have had issues with sanitary products (a prohibited item in the DNF) becoming lodged in the

Pump stations cutters. These gravity fed issues caused expensive repairs at the 3 pump stations. Whether your home is gravity fed or uses a grinder pump, remember that our privately owned sewer system was designed to handle gray water only. If you need a copy of the DNF memo, please contact me or a WPCA Board member. Adherence to the DNF memo will help keep expenses down.

We continue to fund a reserve account to be ready for any repair that may occur due to life expectancy issues. At last year's annual meeting a question was asked how large a reserve the WPCA expected. The Board discussed and a decision was made to continue with the current funding of \$15000 per year. One suggestion discussed was substantially increasing the reserve after the bonds are fully paid. If there is a major emergency that depletes our current reserve of \$260,000, an assessment would be used to raise the needed monies.

The board is looking to hire a part time engineer to assist with any complex mechanical issues. We will be interviewing candidates to determine if a mutually acceptable arrangement can be established.

I'd like to thank the WPCA Board members, Dick Hrinak, Bud Phelps, Ken Russell, Will Szeszakow & Bill Griffin plus treasurer Rita Sulick and secretary Bill Pape for their dedication in attending meetings and handling assignments. Our ability to control maintenance issues would not be possible without the dedicated effort of our part time technician, Rick Frascarelli.

Hopefully, the pandemic 's devastating effects will slow down and everyone will be able to enjoy a new "normal" this summer at POW.

Thank you,

Rich Ramondetta  
POW WPCA  
Chairman