

November 15, 2018

Re: Bean Blossom Waste Water Treatment Project

*"To provide affordable sanitary sewer service to communities in Brown County"*

Dear Homeowners/Property Owners:

You are receiving this letter because your home is tentatively included in the Bean Blossom Waste Water Treatment Project (BBWWTP) area. Homes near Bean Blossom, Woodland Lake, Little Fox Lake and Freeman Ridge areas are included. The Brown County Regional Sewer Board (BCRSB) is in the initial design, pre-engineering and project submission phases to submit the project to State and Federal agencies for approvals and funding. Recently, you may have noticed utility flags in or near your property. A utility survey has been completed to locate utilities as a necessary part of the pre-engineering, design and approval process.

The BBWWTP will provide waste water treatment for approximately 240 customers, including residential homes and several local community businesses. It is anticipated that funding for this project will be approved by the end of 2019 and will take approximately 2 years yet to complete.

As has been discussed over the past several years, the reasons for the BBWWTP are numerous:

1. As required by State law, the Brown County Board of Health issued a county-wide Septic Ordinance in 1977. The current Septic Ordinance was amended in 1997. Soil testing to determine if on-site septic systems would operate properly was required beginning in the early 1990's, over 25 years ago.
2. Brown County Health Department (BCHD) data for the greater Bean Blossom project area reports that there are 241 properties with homes in the area and that 138 of those properties (57%) have homes with records of their septic systems on file at the BCHD. However, the remaining 103 homes in the area (43%) have no septic records on file at all. The table below lists the number of homes and the recorded age of their septic systems:

0 to 10 yrs	11 to 20 yrs	21 to 30 yrs	31 to 40 yrs	over 40 yrs	no records
26	34	32	19	27	103

3. The above BCHD information shows that 60 homes with septic records have septic systems installed or repaired within the last 20 years. But 78 homes with septic records have septic systems that are over 20 years old and may need septic system upgrades or repairs in the very near future. Technical sources including Purdue University Extension Service suggest 25 years as the average lifespan for a well-maintained septic system.

	SEWER ADJUSTMENT			
2 Bedroom	\$10 - \$15,000	\$12 - \$15,000	\$12 - \$15,000	\$25 - \$30,000
3 Bedroom	\$12 - \$18,000	\$13 - \$18,000	\$15 - \$20,000	\$30 - \$38,000
4 Bedroom	\$14 - \$20,000	\$14 - \$20,000	\$18 - \$25,000	\$35,000 & up

5. Of great importance is that in some cases a homeowner's lot may not meet current septic code requirements to repair or replace an existing septic system, potentially making the property uninhabitable. Some lots may not be able to install a new septic system. A community sewer system will solve such problems and make these lots buildable.

The proposed new Bean Blossom sewer system is a cost effective solution. The monthly sewer bill to the homeowner is planned to be based on a flat rate (regardless of water usage) and is anticipated to be approximately \$65 - \$85 per month. The estimated cost to each property owner to connect to the new system is between \$1,000 to \$1,500. We are also looking into the availability of public financial help through USDA for those homeowners who qualify based on income level.

We will have additional public meetings about this project in the future to continue to answer questions and explain how the community sewer system will work. We have a website planned to be online shortly that will have much more information and will address questions that have already been raised.

Please join us at our BCRSD Board meetings normally held in the Saloon Room at the County building. Meeting dates are listed in the Government Calendar section of the Brown County Democrat.

Sincerely,

Jody Swift-Powdrill, President  
Phil LeBlanc, Vice President  
Debbie Lark, Secretary  
Mike Leggin  
Clint Snodgrass  
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Note: The Brown County Democrat published a comprehensive article on September 19, 2018, titled "How Brown County Regional Sewer District Came To Be". The article addressed historical information and public health and environmental concerns. ([bodemocrat.com/local/local-opinion/columns/page2](http://bodemocrat.com/local/local-opinion/columns/page2))

Jody Swift-Powdrill, President, Phil LeBlanc, V. President, Debbie Lark, Secretary, Mike Leggin, Clint Snodgrass