

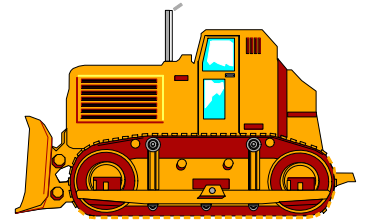


Huntley Wastewater Project Update

Spring -April 2007

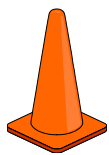
CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN SOON...

The time has come to begin thinking about the construction phase of the wastewater project. The time table indicates that construction will begin within the community this Summer (May/June) and continue through the Fall (November) of 2007.



At its April 17th meeting, the county has awarded the project to Gaub, Inc. out of Lake Lillian, MN, pending final approval from USDA Rural Development.

County staff will be contacting each of you in the very near future, as it is necessary to have access to all basements as we move forward. We will need to identify and verify existing wastewater connections. We will try to give notice a day or two prior to our visit. Staff will continue to be in the community throughout the process, as we will be actively communicating with the project contractors, as well and working with all of you. More information about these private connections can be found throughout this update. It will be VERY important to keep the lines of communication open among all parties if this project is to be successful.



****NOTE - If you have plans to host any large celebration (graduation, wedding, etc) during the upcoming construction season, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can work with the contractors to be accommodating during your event.**

Huntley Subordinate Service District (SSD)

The Faribault County Board of Commissioners established the Huntley subordinate Service District on January 1, 2007 to provide a sanitary sewage and waste disposal system for the residents of Huntley.

The Board of Commissioners also established a Huntley Subordinate Service District (SSD) Board on December 7, 2006. The responsibilities of the Board, subject to the Faribault County Board of Commissioners, the District Board shall do all things necessary to operate and maintain the sanitary system for the residents of Huntley. The Members of this board shall be appointed by the Faribault County Board of Commissioners and serve terms of four years.

The current board membership is as follows:

Citizen of Huntley / Task Force Member (2)

Current Commissioner of District 2 (1)

Current City Administrator of Winnebago (1)

Advisory Staff will include:

Winnebago Wastewater Representative (1)

Faribault County Planning and Zoning Staff (2)

County Auditor (1)

Any questions on the project can be directed to:

Michele Stindtman, SWCD

or

Bruce Blakesley, P&Z

(507)526-2388

Dick Mair, Task Force

Don Wishman, Task Force

Specific Rural Development funding questions can be directed to:

Paul Pierson,

RD Specialist

(507)372-7783 Ext 122

WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS FOR FINANCING MY PRIVATE CONNECTION?

The County will continue to work with homeowners on the private connection financing issue. As mentioned earlier in the project, the amount for this connection is estimated to be around \$2,500.00 / \$3,000.00 (estimated). There will be a couple different options available for homeowners.



THESE MAY INCLUDE:

- 1) Modified county loan program (7% interest, 20% upfront, paid back through property taxes over 10 years with a minimum payment of \$500.00/year).
Property taxes must be current
- 2) USDA 504 program. (More information on this outlined below)
- 3) Low interest loan through Huntley bank utilizing the State Revolving Loan Fund program. (Need to talk to Dick Mair at the bank about details of the loan program)
- 4) Up front personal financing of the connection.



RURAL DEVELOPMENT 504 PROGRAM

The 504 program is designed for very-low income persons. Low interest home improvement loans and grants are available through the USDA, Rural Development.

For homeowners 62 and over who cannot repay a loan, grant funds are available. Funding is based on an annual appropriation.

Loan funds can be used for making **basic repairs, installing essential features or to remove health and safety hazards (including sewage system)**. **The maximum loan amount is \$20,000 at an interest rate of 1% and a repayment period up to 20 years.**

Grants are limited to elderly families (62 years or older) and **can only be used to remove health or safety hazards (including sewage system), or remodel dwellings to make them accessible to household members with disabilities.** **The maximum grant assistance is \$7,500.**

Liquid Retirement Asset limit for elderly household is \$10,000 and \$7,500 for non-elderly household. (Assets include: CDs, stocks, bonds, savings, etc.)

Adj. Income	1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person	7 Person	8 Person
Very Low	19,300	22,050	24,800	27,550	29,750	31,950	34,150	36,350

To determine your adjusted income, deduct the following from your gross income:

- \$480 for each dependent family member under 18 years old
- \$400 for a household member who is 62 years or older
- Day care expenses in order to be employed

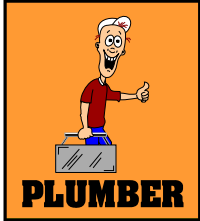
SPECIFIC QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS PROGRAM SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:
 PAUL DORNFELD, USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT
 1408 21st. Ave NW, Suite 3
 Austin, MN 55912
 507-437-8247 Ext. 4

PLEASE LET PAUL KNOW BY MAY 15, 2007 IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE 504 PROGRAM. HE WILL NEED TO WORK WITH YOU ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS TO COMPLETE THE NECESSARY APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.

PRIVATE CONNECTIONS

AS A HOMEOWNER, WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO ME?

REMEMBER, the USDA Financing package only covers the public infrastructure. The construction from the public line to the house is considered the private connection. This connection will be completed as part of the construction package, however, homeowners will be responsible for funding their own private connections. It is anticipated that the amount for this connection will still be around that original \$2,500—\$3,000 amount.



Another part of the private connection that homeowners need to begin thinking about is the connection within your own house. The extent of the work that will be required within the homes will vary from home to home. The County will be on hand to ensure that the overall integrity of the project is met by monitoring these connections, and any problems will be addressed along the way.

As mentioned earlier in the project, any and all illegal I/I connections to the new wastewater system will NOT be allowed. This project will be billed by the amount of water that is being received at the Winnebago Treatment plant.
Any extra water, will only be costing the residents of Huntley.

What Would Be Considered an “Illegal” I/I Connection? -

I/I (Inflow and Infiltration) are terms for the ways that clear water makes its way into sanitary sewer pipes and eventually gets treated, unnecessarily, at the treatment plant at a charge to the residents of Huntley. Infiltration occurs when groundwater seeps into sewer pipes through cracks, leaky joints or deteriorated manholes. This should not be as big of an issue, as the public lines for this project will be new. Inflow, on the other hand, is where we may see issues. This occurs in direct proportion to rainfall. The typical source is water from rain leaders (gutters), sump pumps or foundation drains. For example, an average sump pump can contribute the equivalent of the normal daily flow from multiple homes. Inflow during major rainfalls may exceed sewer capacity, causing system backups into homes, and an extremely large volume of water being charged back to the residents.

These connections can include: Perimeter Tile, Downspouts, Sump Pumps, Cisterns, Surface Intakes, Heat Pumps (used for thermal heat), etc.

It is not illegal to have these, but it is illegal to connect them to the new wastewater line, this was a state law established in the 1960's.

In most cases, there are alternative opportunities to deal with these, and the county will be working with homeowners to address these.





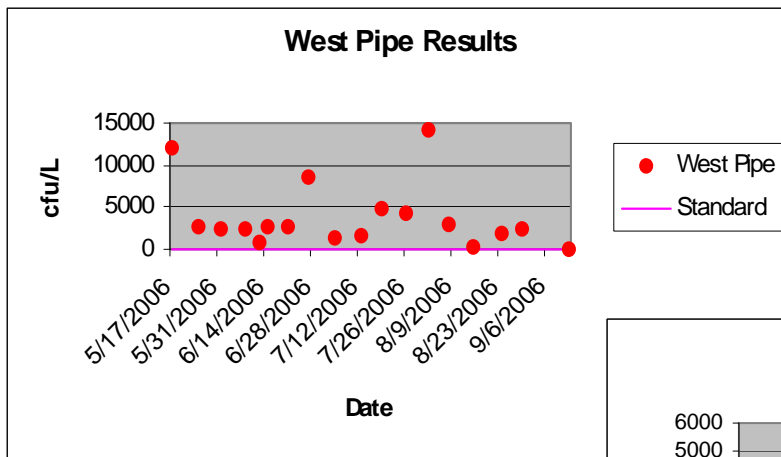
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IS BACTERIA REALLY A PROBLEM IN OUR WATER?

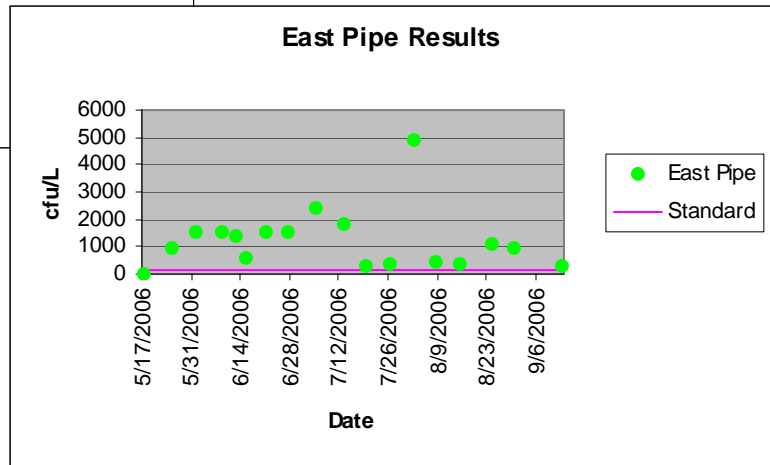
The Blue Earth, Center-Lily Clean Water Partnership (CWP) along with the Water Resources Center at Minnesota State University, Mankato joined efforts to start sampling water from the tile outlets that drain the wastewater from the city of Huntley into Center Creek. The purpose for the sampling the water is to test for Escherichia coli (E. coli).

There are many different strains of E. coli that are classified into more than 170 subgroups. Although most strains of E. coli are harmless and live in the intestines of healthy humans and animals, some strains produce a powerful toxin and can cause severe illness. Elevated levels of E. coli can be associated with improper treatment of sewage from households and cities along with improper spreading of manure on fields.

The Minnesota Water Quality Standard for E. coli is 126 colony forming units (cfu's) per liter.



THE TWO POINT CHARTS SHOW THE SAMPLE RESULTS PLOTTED COMPARED



As you can see by the point charts, there were only two samples from both creeks that were not above the water quality standard, and those were results of a broken bottle. You can also notice a rise in cfu/L as we entered the warmer summer months. These higher numbers correlate with other similar results of bacteria sampling which show that bacteria numbers multiply much more as temperatures rise.

These results clearly show a current problem in the water coming from the two outlets draining Huntley.

The upgrading of the sewer system in Huntley is providing an opportunity to see if the bacteria count decreases at the tile outlets after hooking Huntley's residents into the pipeline to Winnebago as we plan to keep sampling the outlets over the next couple years.