

Woodridge Lake Sewer District
Historical Timeline to April 26, 2017

WLSD Project Background: A forty seven year odyssey of working with DEP/DEEP to gain approval of a long term solution to our wastewater treatment and disposal requirements

WLSD Timeline: 1969 to 2009

- July 23, 1969: Transactions by eleven property owners were filed with the Goshen Town Clerk and in turn the large block of property was sold to Boise Cascade Properties, Inc.
- July 17, 1970: Woodridge Lake Sewer District (WLSD) was formed in accordance with the CT state statutes that govern municipalities.
- July 26, 1971: A Sewer Authority Board was adopted and an engineering firm was hired to work for Boise Cascade to plan the infrastructure which became the collection system and treatment plant.
- October 16, 1974: DEP issues a one year 40,000 gpd operational permit and agrees with the 200,000 gpd design to operate collection system, sewage treatment plant and disposal fields under a groundwater discharge permit
- July 27, 1989: DEP, concerned about disposal field capacity, issues consent order limiting flow to 100,000 gpd with conditions requiring a hydraulic study of our disposal beds
- February, 2005: Nathan Jacobson & Associates issues a Facilities Plan to DEP with two alternatives: upgraded plant and disposal fields or pipeline to Torrington both costing approximately \$10 million
- July, 2009: DEP states Facilities Plan is unacceptable indicating disposal fields require sand filters raising cost to \$19 million
- November, 2009: After no WLSD response, DEP indicates that sand filters are a requirement and demands a response by January, 2010

WLSD Timeline: 2010

- March, 2010: DEP writes it hasn't received WLSD's response
- June 3, 2010: DEP writes enforcement action forthcoming if WLSD doesn't address outstanding items by June 30, 2010
- June, 2010: A new Board, Planning Committee and Finance Committee members in place within the leadership positions within the WLSD
- June 29, 2010: WLSD writes the DEP promising a number of detailed action steps over next six months
- July, 2010: WLSD Team meets with DEP, agrees action plan including preparation of a detailed Facilities Plan
- Facilities Plan to examine three alternatives: existing plant with groundwater recharge, upgraded plant with groundwater recharge and pipeline to Torrington
- To qualify for 55% DEP funding of Facilities Plan, DEP requires Qualifications Based Selection process to hire consultant; four month exercise ends with selection of Woodard & Curran (W&C)
- December 18, 2010: Special meeting of WLSD taxpayers approves \$563,000 expenditure for Facilities Plan (WLSD share 45%)

WLSD Timeline: 2011

- February, 2011: DEP approves Facilities Plan, work commences
- Early focus on Inflow & Infiltration (I/I) of groundwater into collection system and groundwater disposal system
- Inflow and Infiltration: work accomplished included flow isolation on 4 miles of collection system, TV inspection of 2.5 miles of system, 80% of manholes inspected, 200 houses inspected, smoke testing of problem areas
- Groundwater Disposal System: Fields cleaned up and valves repaired, preliminary tests run, technical discussions begun with DEP on proposed ground water tests of disposal fields' hydraulic capacity

- DEP (now DEEP) decides to delay field tests until high water season in Spring 2012
- Other work commences on treatment plant evaluation, flow measurement, Torrington pipeline evaluation
- A search committee interviewed three firms and hired Hartford based law firm Shipman & Goodwin for legal & regulatory advice

WLSD Timeline: 2012

- System Flows Study shows average daily flow of 105,000 gpd comprised of 50,000 gpd of wastewater and 55,000 gpd of I/I
- Spring 2012 tests of disposal field capacity show favorable results in range of 125,000 gpd. Technical discussions with DEEP lead to requirement for more field tests
- Remainder of collection system “flow isolated” and inspected by TV
- W&C identifies collection system repair work to reduce I/I with goal to reduce inflow by up to 28,000 gpd
- October 27, 2012: Special Meeting approves \$983,000 expenditure with \$529,000 for I/I removal and \$454,000 for new pump station controls and flow monitoring (SCADA)

WLSD Timeline: 2013

- January-April, 2013: Capital costs developed for two alternatives, assumptions updated and costs revised
- July, 2013: Preliminary Summary Report delivered to DEEP
- Report included new plant design providing high level of treatment (membrane bio-reactor followed by UV disinfection) and new disposal field distribution system with estimated cost of \$11.4 million
- Report also included W&C’s preliminary evaluation of Torrington pipeline with two pump stations at estimated cost of \$21.6 million
- October, 2013: Detailed disposal system report delivered to DEEP

WLSD Timeline: 2014

- Throughout 2014, financing discussions continue with Connecticut’s Clean Water Fund (CWF) and USDA’s Rural Development arm to position WLSD for grant and loan money for project
- CWF typically provides 25% of project in grant money and balance in 20 year loan at 2%. USDA typically provides 25% of project in grant money and balance in 40 year loan at variable rate, but will provide up to 45% grant money (as it did with SCADA and I/I project)
- Discussions with USDA indicate likely funding availability for 2014/15 for portion of WLSD project (split into two pieces) at grant levels up to 45%. Also, USDA indicates willingness to work with CWF in co-financing whereby grant levels of two agencies could be combined
- Following meetings with DEEP management, CWF indicates willingness to work with USDA on co-financing WLSD project
- System flows continue to be an issue with existing flow of 105,000 gpd and projected additional flows of 20,000 at WLSD’s estimated disposal field capacity of 125,000. I/I removal of 25,000 gpd is required to avoid concrete lined equalization tanks costing \$7 million
- April, 2014: DEEP responds to WLSD Disposal System Report of October 2013 indicating field test results failed to meet DEEP technical design guidelines including 21 day travel time and 3 foot separation
- May, 2014: USDA Rural Development agrees to finance SCADA and I/I projects with 45% grant money and 40 year loan
- June 5, 2014: Discussions with DEEP on local plant lead to additional upgrades of treatment plant increasing the costs to \$15.8 million
- June 6, 2014: An initial information meeting is held with Torrington indicating no DEEP support for the local option, potential pipe routes reviewed and we had initial discussions regarding the terms of an Inter Municipal Agreement (IMA)
- September, 2014: Capital costs for local solution including drinking water quality plant and disposal field upgrades revised upward to \$16.8 million; W&C estimate of pipeline cost remains at \$20.5 million
- With uncertainty over approval of local option, WLSD mandates W&C to place Torrington pipeline as high priority to examine alternative routes and tighten cost estimates

- Cost of Facilities Plan Update exceeds \$1 million (55% paid by DEEP)
- December, 2014: Further work by W&C shows revised capital costs of both Torrington Pipeline and Local Plant alternatives at \$17.3 million. With capital costs similar and operating and maintenance costs of Torrington Pipeline lower, pipeline becomes the low cost option
- WLSD legal counsel advises DEEP of new cost information and requests support for Regional Alternative solution. DEEP management embraces new approach

WLSD Timeline: 2015

- Spring 2015: Meeting held with Torrington WPCA to indicate WLSD's interest in the Torrington pipeline alternative. Further research on Torrington's agreements with Harwinton and Litchfield as model for WLSD agreement
- Spring 2015: W&C reviews work on pipeline alternative routes, pump requirements, plant decommissioning costs, and cost estimates for both alternatives
- Spring 2015: Meetings with USDA RD and DEEP CWF continue to indicate positive interest in joint financing of project. RD funding allocation for 2015 filled but indicates willingness to fund over 3 years beginning FY 2016 with 21% grant level
- Spring 2015: WLSD decides to invest \$100,000 to conduct 300 borings over preferred pipeline route to test for ledge to further refine cost estimates for pipeline alternative
- May, 2015: DEEP CWF and USDA officials meet to discuss financing of WLSD's project. Jointly decide their policies and procedures preclude them from working together on co-financing of our project
- WLSD decides to continue to actively progress both CWF and USDA financing of project until best financial package put in place
- Results of borings work show minimal amount of ledge along preferred route. W&C reviews cost of pipeline with new data and revises capital cost down to \$14.5 million making it clearly more economical than local plant option with capital costs of \$17.3 million
- August, 2015: Meetings with Torrington WPCA officials lead to preliminary agreement on route, technical and engineering issues and basis of Inter Municipal Agreement (IMA). Open issues include Torrington's concerns on capacity, future user hookups, odors, connection charge of \$3,500 per 65,000 gallons and pollutant loadings
- August, 2015: WLSD Planning Committee and Board agree Torrington Pipeline is preferred and most economical solution and should be recommended to taxpayers for approval
- Local plant alternative will be maintained as an option until all arrangements for pipeline are finalized
- November 2, 2015: DEEP issues letter requesting formal timeline for completion of Facilities Plan in early 2016 to include a schedule for implementation.
- November 12, 2015: We officially inform DEEP we are suspending work on the local option and will only focus on the Torrington option
- December 8, 2015: Joint DEEP, Torrington and WLSD meeting to discuss the sewer service area, project timeline, funding issues and the IMA.
- December 20, 2015: Torrington Planning & Zoning Commission completes their 8-24 reviews and approves the project
- December 21, 2015: Torrington WPCA approves project go ahead

WLSD Timeline: 2016

- January 20, 2016: Goshen Planning & Zoning Commission completes their 8-24 reviews and approves the project
- February, 2016: Torrington WPCA requires connection charge which increases project cost by approximately \$2.5 million to \$17 million.
- March, 2016: Meetings with potential contractors indicate construction costs can be reduced by \$1.5 million bringing total costs down to \$15.5 million.
- March, 2016: USDA formally commits to financing the \$15.5 million project with \$2.8 million in grants and the balance in a 40 year loan at 2.25% interest rate

- April 30, 2016: The Board at its Annual Meeting presents to the public the project details, the funding commitment and the need for an appropriation for the \$15.5 million and bond authorization to construct the wastewater transmission facility
- May 9, 2016: The Facility Plan Summary Report is submitted to the DEEP for their review and comment
- May 17, 2016: DEEP approves the submitted Facilities Plan without comment or changes
- May 28, 2016: At a Special Meeting the District's taxpayer vote to approve the \$15.5 million appropriation by 194 yes votes and one no vote.
- June 13, 2016: The Board ratifies the signatures of James Mersfelder and Alfred Shul on two sets of resolution papers from the USDA to secure the grant and loan totaling \$15.5 million
- July 7, 2016: Goshen Inland Wetlands Commission accepts our application
- July 9, 2016: A Public Hearing is held with property owners from which easements required for the Project
- July 19, 2016: Torrington Inland Wetlands Commission accepts our application
- July 20, 2016; CoBank construction loan secured
- July 25, 2016: Information Meeting held with all abutters in Goshen and Torrington
- August 4, 2016: Goshen Inland Wetlands Commission Public Hearing was closed by the Commissioners
- August 16, 2016: Torrington Inland Wetlands Commission Public Hearing was closed by the Commissioners
- September 1, 2016: Goshen Inland Wetlands Commission unanimously approved our permit
- September 1, 2016: Torrington Water Company (TWC) requests the CT Department of Public Health (DPH) to "Correct threat to water supply"
- September 20, 2016: Torrington Inland Wetlands Commission unanimously approved our permit
- November 21, 2016: DEEP, WLSD and TWC submit information to DPH for their consideration
- December 6, 2016: TWC submits a rebuttal to WLSD's submission to the DPH
- December 22, 2016: Goshen WPCA's Water Pollution Plan language permitting our proposed pipeline within areas designated as sewer avoidance is approved

WLSD Timeline: 2017

- January 20, 2017: WLSD submits rebuttals of TWC's November and December submissions to DPH
- January 27, 2017: DEEP delivers a support letter and technical review to DPH
- February 2, 2017: TWC submits arguments to DPH regarding our January 20, 2017 rebuttals
- March 6, 2017: DEEP delivers a support letter and technical review to DPH
- March 15, 2017: FOIA Appeal Hearing with TWC
- March 23, 2017: DEEP delivers a technical review table to DPH
- April 25, 2017: TWC FOIA demand letter to DEEP

WLSD To Do List for 2017

- Receive ConnDOT final approval for work on route 63 and route 4
- Receive approval from Torrington WPCA
- Receive approval by the Office of Policy & Management
- Complete construction design
- Resolve all easement issues
- Obtain USDA approval of bidding documents
- Execute an Inter Municipal Agreement with Torrington
- Bid the project
- Select contractor

WLSD TO Do List for 2018 to 2020

- Construct the wastewater transmission main and pump station
- Go live
- Decommission our existing plant