



# LINN SANITARY DISTRICT

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## A COMPILATION OF SUMMARIES FROM THE VARIOUS WASTEWATER FACILITIES PLANNING REPORTS/STUDIES CONDUCTED BY THE LINN SANITARY DISTRICT WALWORTH COUNTY, WI

Prepared July 2012

by

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This document includes the Executive Summaries from the Wastewater Facilities Planning Reports and amendments prepared by Baxter and Woodman for the Linn Sanitary District over the last 12 years. Wastewater Facilities Planning reports included are:

The Linn Sanitary District Facilities Planning Report .....January 2000  
The Linn Sanitary District Facilities Planning Report Amendments.....June 2001  
Town of Geneva/Linn Sanitary District Facilities Planning Report.....October 2007  
The Linn Sanitary District, Facilities Planning Report Amendments.....January 2010

Full copies of these reports are available at the Linn Town Hall or can be viewed at the Linn Sanitary District's web page <http://www.townoflinn.com/Sanitary.htm>

# The Linn Sanitary District's Wastewater Facilities Planning Report. - January 2000

## Background:

Excluding a few small special areas where private agreements have been made between a neighboring community and an individual party for collection and transport of wastewater to a treatment plant, the use of private on-site wastewater treatment systems (POWTS) and holding tanks are the only means of wastewater management/treatment within the District. In the late 1990's, the Linn Sanitary District initiated an effort to identify and evaluate the current wastewater treatment, collection and disposal facilities within the District. This effort included several surveys, a selected inspection program and numerous meetings with residents and home owner groups.

The product of this effort was the Linn Sanitary District's Wastewater Facilities Plan released in January 2000. This plan looked at sanitary waste management options for the whole District. It addressed purpose and scope, an assessment of current conditions, an assessment of future conditions, development and evaluation of alternatives, financial considerations and finally a selection of a plan for use through 2020. The Executive Summary of the plan follows on the next three pages.

# The Linn Sanitary District's Wastewater Facilities Plan Amendments - June 2001

## Background:

Following the recommendation presented in the 2000 Facilities Plan, the Linn Sanitary District conducted an extensive public opinion and education program for its residents. The main component of this effort was an extensive public opinion survey of the resident's preference between several different wastewater treatment options. The District's residents were strongly in favor of staying with private on-site wastewater treatment system. As such, the Linn Sanitary District initiated a district-wide comprehensive private on-site wastewater treatment system (POWTS) inspection program that eventually inspected 1,324 systems. The findings of the survey, inspections and amendments to the Facilities Plan are summarized in the following five pages.

Upon completion of the inspection program, the Linn Sanitary district provided the Walworth County Sanitation Division with the inspection findings. The County has begun to implement the maintenance program for systems the District identified in their inspection as "functioning" and "repairs needed" systems.

# Town of Geneva/Linn Sanitary District Facilities Planning

## Report - October 2007

### Background:

Following the completion of the Linn Sanitary District's inspection program several areas within the District were identified as areas with a rather high concentration of old systems that were not functioning properly or needed upgrades, minor repairs or replacement. One such area was the north shore area that included parts of subareas 1 and 2.

As options for wastewater management in these areas were explored it became known to the District that the Town of Geneva was doing much the same type of planning in areas adjacent to the Linn Sanitary District. In an attempt to reduce cost and look at the possibility of combining planning, development and construction cost associated with collection and treatment, the Linn Sanitary District and the Town of Geneva entered into an agreement for joint facilities planning for this area.

After numerous public meetings and discussions with residents in the planning area, it became apparent that the Linn Sanitary District residents of the north shore planning area were not interested in abandoning POWTS for a collection system. It was made clear to these residents that the option of staying with POWTS would result in many of their systems being upgraded or replaced to maintain groundwater integrity. There appeared to be a feeling that since many of the homes in the planning area are not used year round, they were willing to stay with effective POWTS or holding tanks because the costs of those options are more directly related to use. Sewers and centralized treatment would result in a billing regardless of the time spent at the residence.

An Executive Summary of these facilities planning efforts and amendments are presented in the following four pages.

# Linn Sanitary District Facilities Planning Report

## Amendments – January 2010.

### Background:

The Linn Sanitary District's inspection program found several areas in the District's south shore area where factors were such that the development of a collection system with ultimate transport to a treatment plant may be more viable than it was 10 years ago. The concentration of old systems, small lots and poor soils challenged the long term viability of private on-site wastewater treatment systems (POWTS). As such many landowners asked the District to re-evaluate the feasibility of different sanitary waste management options, especially the possibility of centralized collection and treatment.

The Fontana Walworth Water Pollution Control Facility serves the Villages of Fontana and Walworth and is located west of the Linn Sanitary District's borders. These communities were in the process of planning an expansion of their treatment capacity. The District initiated discussion with the Fontana Walworth Water Pollution Control Commission regarding access to their sanitary waste collection and conveyance systems and ultimately to their treatment plant. After evaluating several options for access it became clear that the Linn Sanitary District was not going to be able to get access to the plant. An Executive Summary of this planning process is presented in the following three pages.

# Linn Sanitary District's Waste Management

## Conclusions:

The Linn Sanitary District has always been committed to finding the best sanitary waste management for its residents. Failing systems and poor sanitary waste management threaten the groundwater quality of the Geneva Lake area. Groundwater is important as a source of water to Geneva Lake and to its residents for drinking water.

Over the years the District has evaluated basically two options, staying with private on-site collection and treatment or the use of a collection system to treat sanitary waste at a centralized facility. These two options have included several variations depending upon where in the District sanitary waste management was being considered.

With consideration to financial, social, economic, political and environmental issues there was a prevalence of feeling by the District's residents to stay with the on-site option. In many cases this was driven by the fact that many properties within the District are used only seasonally. The development of on-site wastewater treatment technology and changes in the rules governing POWTS have opened new on-site options for consideration with the use in both new and replacement systems.

There are several areas within the Linn Sanitary District where collection and centralized treatment may seem to be the best option. However, when considered in the context of all factors, staying with an on-site option was the option of choice by the Linn Sanitary District. As a part of this decision, the District has undertaken an upgrading effort in coordination with the Walworth County Sanitation Division. Once systems are brought up to compliance, the properties are put on a three year pumping/maintenance program administered by the Walworth County Sanitation Division.

In order to maintain and improve the groundwater quality of the area and continue to bring its residents the best wastewater management, the District will continue to implement the following strategies:

- Cooperate with Walworth County Sanitation Division to initiate and eventually get a 3-year maintenance and POWTS tank pumping program implemented district wide.
- Continue to work with Walworth County on POWTS code enforcement.
- Continue public education on POWTS maintenance and use.
- Review County data and other records on a 10 year basis to determine whether detailed POWTS evaluations should be performed by the District.