

# Monroe Township Municipal Authority News

*May 2019*

We are working to reduce expenses and make our sewer operation more efficient through improved planning and analysis. As many know, our sewer system has several challenges due to its age, condition, the limited size of our two sewer districts and the budget available for operations. Starting this year, Monroe's Municipal Authority, together with the Board of Supervisors are working to develop five and ten year strategic plans to better manage, budget and improve our system when funding is available.

Part of our work will be to expand communications on the sewer system within our Township, the challenges before us and what we can do together to lower costs. We will work to include periodic information on various topics in our quarterly bills along with postings within the Monroe Twp website and Twp Newsletter.

## **Inflow and infiltration (I&I) and what all of us can do about it**

One of the many challenges facing us has been an incredibly wet weather pattern over this past year. Our system flows to both the Mechanicsburg WWTP (Northern District) and the South Middleton WWTP (Southern District) have continually been at record levels. This results in higher treatment costs for all of us.

You may be thinking "what does wet weather have to do with higher treatment costs?" Well, we have inflow and infiltration (I&I) problems throughout our system. I&I is clear storm water and ground water (not sewage or gray water) that gets into the sewer system through various means. During rain events, the sanitary sewer system can become overloaded with I&I in some parts of our Twp. I&I drives our treatment costs up, limiting our capabilities to fund operations.

Within Monroe, I&I is occurring through breaks in piping, both within the public sewer main (the portion Monroe is responsible for) and in some of the privately-owned sewer laterals that connect individual houses to the public sewer main. I&I can also occur when sump pumps or downspouts are improperly hooked up to drain into the sewer system. Connecting sump pumps and downspouts to the sewer is a violation of Monroe Township rules and regulations and counter to the PA Department of Environmental Protection policy. Bottom line, we are paying to treat clear water that has no business in our sewer system.

### *What can you do to help??*

*Please check your home; is your sump pump connected to drain into your sewer pipes?*

*Even the smallest sump pump available at Lowes or Home Depot can generate as much as one million gallons from one home in one month!! And, check your gutter down spouts – Are they connected to your sewer pipes?*

*If either of these are happening in your house – You must disconnect them.*

**What is currently being done....**

Building on its earlier sewer inventory project, Monroe Township has initiated an ongoing inspection program throughout our Township to deal with its aging infrastructure. We have also invested in specialty video equipment to help with inspections to better prioritize and plan repair work.

As areas of the public sewer main are evaluated, the Township will be inspecting the private laterals to the homes that connect to the public sewer main within these work areas. This involves extending a camera up the lateral to determine if there are any issues with the lateral. If there are indications that a household's lateral may have an issue, Township staff will contact the individual homeowner to discuss the options.

Our Department of Public Works (formerly known as the road crew) has been videoing the sewer lines in areas where we believe I&I is taking place and have already identified several areas in need of repair. As funds (both budget and public grants) come available in the coming years, we will work through our prioritized project list. The first construction project is taking place this year around Blossom Terrace.

Stay tuned for more information on various related subjects. Any questions at all, please feel free to contact your Township office.

*Always Invited*

All of Monroe's meetings are open to the public.

Please feel free to attend to see firsthand all that goes into supporting our hometown and to maybe see how you can get involved.

***And, special public joint workshops to kick off the sewer strategic planning process have commenced; Next one is tentatively scheduled for July.***

Check out Monroe Township's website for more info. and the meeting schedules for all of our Township's leadership boards; Board of Supervisor, Recreation, Municipal Authority, Planning Commission & Zoning Hearing.

*Monroetwp.net*

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