

## IMPACTS ON USERS (CONTINUED)

While increased costs to residents are unavoidable when aging infrastructure reaches the end of its useful life, the regional approach will result in significantly lower financial impacts to residents when compared to undertaking separate capital improvement projects at each community's existing wastewater treatment plant. Based on current funding projections, an average user will see a monthly increase in sewer related charges upon completion of the project of approximately \$20 to \$30 (with the exception of users in Macedon, which has already raised its rates).

Upon completion of the project, users can anticipate paying approximately \$554\*/year under the regional approach, compared to \$600 - \$1,200/year with individual community projects.

\*Please note that annual costs will be somewhat higher than this during the first three years as project costs are phased in.

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# Western Wayne County Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Project Summary (January 2020)



## THE PROJECT

The Towns of Macedon, Marion, Palmyra and Walworth are working together with the Village of Palmyra and the Wayne County Water and Sewer Authority (WCWSA) to plan for and build a new regional wastewater treatment facility. Currently four of the communities own and operate their own facilities, which are all faced with issues of aging infrastructure and more stringent regulatory requirements. Each community's existing treatment facilities are faced with a capital need in the range of \$8 - 12 million resulting in a user cost from \$600 - \$1,200 per user per year. Given these costs, the communities engaged the WCWSA, and their consultants, to evaluate the feasibility of a regional approach that would provide a more cost effective solution. At this time, Walworth is finalizing its contractual commitment to the regional solution due to cost savings and the extensive benefits this solution will provide. The regional approach will eliminate the need for each community to undertake the substantial cost implications of independent upgrades.

The new regional wastewater treatment facility will be built adjacent to the Village of Palmyra's current facility. New pumping stations, screening facilities, and transmission systems will convey each community's wastewater to the new regional facility, thereby consolidating operations into one modern and more efficient facility. Once the new plant is up and running, the outdated facilities will be decommissioned and taken out of service.

## THE BENEFITS

Some of the benefits of the regional solution include:

- Lower costs for users
- Consolidation and reduction in operational, maintenance, and administrative costs
- 1 Single facility subject to current and future regulatory requirements in lieu of 3-4 facilities
- Expanded user base stabilizes costs and rates
- Life expectancy of new facility is 30-40 years compared to 15-20 years associated with upgrading existing aged infrastructure
- Incorporation of new, more efficient, processes and equipment
- New facility allows for future development and consideration for industrial waste streams
- Each existing WWTP can continue to operate until the new regional WWTP is commissioned
- Beneficial Use of Bio-Solids as compared to landfill disposal of sewage sludge

## THE SCHEDULE

The project began in the summer of 2017. With Engineering Reports and economic analysis now complete, and financing commitments in place, the design of the plant has begun and is anticipated to be ready by the beginning of 2021. Construction is scheduled to begin in June of 2021 and should be completed by 2023.

## PROJECT COSTS / FUNDING

The total projected cost for the project is currently estimated at \$53.5 million. The WCWSA has secured a funding commitment from the NY State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC), along with the following grants: a \$12.5 million-dollar Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) grant, a \$1 million-dollar WQIP grant through NYS DEC, and a \$250,000 Local Aid State Assistance grant which was secured by New York State Senator Pamela Helming (R-54), supported by New York State Assemblyman Brian Manktelow.

## IMPACTS ON USERS

Project cost impacts, as currently estimated will be phased in over the next four years. A typical residential user can expect to see charges in two categories - a capital charge that will appear on annual tax bills commencing next year and an operations and maintenance (O&M) charge. Until the project is completed in 2023, the Town will continue to bill you directly for O&M. Thereafter, the WCWSA will bill you quarterly for O&M. A long-term reduction in O&M costs is anticipated as a direct result of the regional approach.