

Working Group Meeting #1  
July 15, 2015 at 7PM

## Introductory Meeting

### *Roster of members as of July 13, 2015*

Ynes	Arocho
Connie	Bilowski
Glenn	Coyne
Byron	Crampton
Terrance	Dziak
John	Ehrnfelt
Bill	Fraunfelder
Jim	Gagan
Babette	Gowda
Jerry	Gubani
Jim	Hostacky
Ron	Hudak
John	Kilgore
Zuzanna	Kurowska
Cole	Mellino
Katelyn	Milius
Michelle	Nochta
Dana	Paul
Jim	Rambasek
Jeralyn	Saleet
Stuart	Sayler
Jeannie	Smith
Jan	Snow
Mike	Stewart
Allison	Urbanek
Patrick	Wadden

Please email Julia ([jlazar@ct.consultants.com](mailto:jlazar@ct.consultants.com)) with a sentence about yourself. Eventually there will be a website for this project on [onelakewood.com](http://onelakewood.com) with all of this information listed on the website.

This is a diverse working group of residents, business owners, and home owners assembled to help identify the best paths forward for water infrastructure in Lakewood. This group is focusing on facilitating best-practice solutions for sewage overflows.

Please, talk to others about these meetings. You can be both a megaphone – spreading information out to your fellow citizens as well as a reporter– gathering input and relaying back to the group the comments and opinions you have heard.

### ***Brief Statement of the Challenge***

The city is currently faced with multiple regulatory requirements that will involve a variety of infrastructure, policy, and land management solutions.

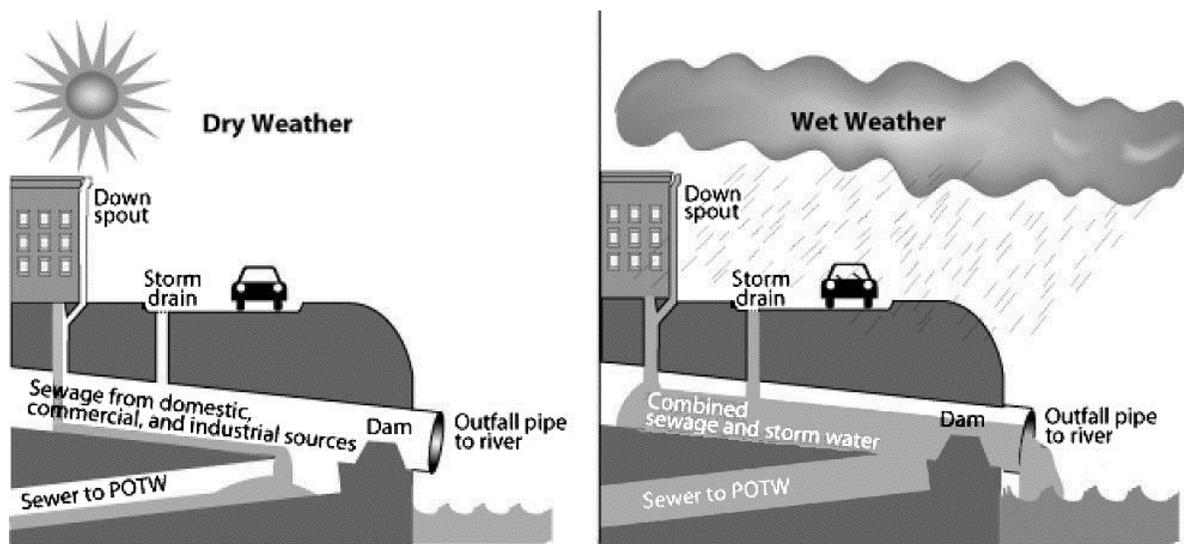
CT Consultants will work with the City and this working group to evaluate various water infrastructure improvement alternatives based on the working group’s suggestions, reflecting the community’s criteria and values.

### ***Why do we have sewage overflows?***

Lakewood has sewer systems that are designed to collect rainwater runoff, domestic sewage, and industrial wastewater in the same pipe. During dry weather, our sewer system transports all of the wastewater to a sewage treatment plant, where it is treated and then discharged to a water body. During periods of heavy rainfall or snowmelt, however, the wastewater volume can exceed the capacity of the sewer system or treatment plant. For this reason, our sewer system is designed to overflow and discharge excess wastewater directly to nearby waterways—Rocky River and Lake Erie.

These types of overflows are a major water pollution concern for the approximately 772 cities in the U.S. that have combined sewer systems (EPA, 2014). With the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972, such overflows and other discharges must be controlled or eliminated in order to make water fishable and swimmable, among other uses.

To resolve this problem, US EPA and Ohio EPA have mandated that Lakewood capture, treat or remove the millions of gallons of overflow that happen every year. As with the original investments in the City, Lakewood must invest in its infrastructure so that it meets the demands of Lakewood’s second century, and for the benefit of human and environmental health.



### ***Expectation of this Working Group***

- 1) Help communicate and engage with the community to work on public awareness of this issue
- 2) Develop green and grey infrastructure alternative suggestions for CT to model, that reflect community values and priorities
- 3) Evaluate model results and to suggest top feasible alternatives for consideration

### ***Resource People for this Working Group:***

- 1) Robert H. Greytak, PE, [bgreytak@ctconsultants.com](mailto:bgreytak@ctconsultants.com), Engineer and Program Facilitator at CT Consultants, focus areas include water and waste water.
- 2) Kristin M. Hopkins, AICP, [khopkins@ctconsultants.com](mailto:khopkins@ctconsultants.com), Planner and Lead Program Facilitator at CT Consultants, focusing on urban planning and community supported decision making.
- 3) Joyce M. Bond, RLA, [jbond@ctconsultants.com](mailto:jbond@ctconsultants.com), Landscape Architect and Program Facilitator at CT Consultants, focus area includes: green infrastructure.
- 4) Julia G. Lazar, PhD, [jlazar@ctconsultants.com](mailto:jlazar@ctconsultants.com), Scientist and Program Facilitator at CT Consultants, applied researcher in industry, government, and academia; focus includes pollution transformations, hydrology, and scientific communication.
- 5) Louis L. McMahon, JD, [lmcmahon@mdlip.net](mailto:lmcmahon@mdlip.net), Environmental Lawyer hired by City of Lakewood focusing on Clean Water Act compliance, partner at McMahon DeGulis LLP
- 6) Joseph J. Beno, PE, [joe.beno@lakewoodoh.net](mailto:joe.beno@lakewoodoh.net), Director of Public Works, Lakewood
- 7) Mark K. Papke, PE, [mark.papke@lakewoodoh.net](mailto:mark.papke@lakewoodoh.net), City Engineer, Lakewood
- 8) Shannon C. Strachan, JD, [shannon.strachan@lakewoodoh.net](mailto:shannon.strachan@lakewoodoh.net), Assistant to the Mayor, Lakewood
- 9) Brian Shields, [brian.shields@lakewoodoh.net](mailto:brian.shields@lakewoodoh.net), Project Manager, Lakewood
- 10) Bryce Sylvester, AICP, [bryce.sylvester@lakewoodoh.net](mailto:bryce.sylvester@lakewoodoh.net), City Planner, Lakewood
- 11) Ermelindo Gomes, Ohio EPA, [erm.gomes@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:erm.gomes@epa.ohio.gov), 330-963-1196, Environmental Engineer

### ***Meeting Ground Rules***

Group members are expected to respect the opinions of team members, have meaningful conversations, and provide constructive insight by:

- Everyone participating – all viewpoints are important
- Using active listening
- Avoiding side bar conversations – one person speaks at a time so everyone can hear
- Brainstorming without editing; all ideas are good ideas
- Respecting everyone's time by being concise, succinct with comments
- Turning off cell phones

### Meetings are open to the public

- Opportunity for observers to comment will be provided at the end of the process, when feasible plans are developed
- Regular updates and meeting notes will be provided on the City's website

### Meeting Structure:

- Meetings start promptly at 7PM
- Meetings will be a combination of learning, brainstorming and discussion
- When meeting materials are distributed ahead of time, participants are expected to review the materials and arrive prepared to participate in discussions
- Each meeting will begin with a summary of the concepts and discussion from the last meeting
- Meetings are open for public listening and at the end of each meeting there will be 5 minutes for public comment. Additionally index cards and a box will be provided at the meetings so if the public didn't get a chance to ask their question they can write it out, including their contact

information, and one of the Resource Colleagues will get back to them. Comments can also be submitted directly to working group individuals, or to resource members, or to the City of Lakewood.

Facilitated Discussion means:

- Systemic approach to discussion, so that all voices are heard
- Can't always ask questions – might need to write down for later
- Won't necessarily debate issues to closure
- Discussion on some issues may need to be deferred, or may need more research between meetings

*Meeting Date and Time*

Meeting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month, starting at 7PM.

*Communication you can expect from us*

Two email updates a month for the first 6-8 weeks sharing news and tweets from that week regarding stormwater, green infrastructure, sewage over flows in other municipalities, etc. We consider this helpful in broadening everyone's awareness. Please feel free to pass this information on to others in the community.

*What you can expect at our next meetings*

We will spend the first few monthly meetings going over background information, providing educational resources for understanding the problem and discussing possible solutions.

Specifically, the next two meetings will be field trips: one to show you the sewage treatment plant and one which focuses on green infrastructure.

**Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>** we meet at Lakewood Municipal Waste Water Treatment plant, 1699 Cleveland Metro Park Dr, at 7PM. We will gain an understanding of how a treatment plant works, and how it has evolved over time. We will also look at one overflow site right near the plant, which overflows into Rocky River.

**Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>** we meet at the Watershed Stewardship Center to learn about green infrastructure options, 2277 W Ridgewood Dr, Parma, OH 44134. The tour starts at 7pm sharp, please arrive a few minutes early.

After that, we plan to have our September, October, and November meetings at the University of Akron, Lakewood campus, multi-use room.

December, January, and February meetings may be held at City Hall depending on auditorium availability.