



## Manager's Agenda

### **Board Meeting**

July 21, 2008

#### ➤ **DOCUMENTS ATTACHED**

- Agenda
- Meeting Minutes (Board Agenda)
  - *May 29, 2008 (web available)*
- Claim & Transfer Dockets (Board Agenda)
  - *June 2008 (web available)*
- Monthly Financial Charts (Board Agenda)
  - *June 2008(web available)*
- Document, Original IDEM Order (Board Agenda)
  - *Description of board member make-up (single page, web available)*
- DRAFT-Document, IRSDA Newsletter article (Board Agenda)
  - *JNRU: "Success is a journey measured one day at a time"*

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- Common Water/Sewer Department Issues:
  - **Dave Brinkman, Treasurer**
    - Dave's recent illness has caught all of us by surprise and we all wish Dave a speedy and full recovery. Given what little we know at this time about Dave's recovery time, we believe it may take long enough to merit the authorization of an interim treasurer until his healthy return. *(The interim person must be authorized to sign checks; Ed Whitaker is currently the only other authorized signer of record at Indiana Bank & Trust Company.)*
  - **Board Members (Vacant Positions; currently unable to make a quorum)**
    - I recently spoke with two board-member applicants and several other customers about some of the recent utility activity and concerns; encouraging them to attend meetings and to be involved. I suggest that the board begin filling the vacant board positions at the next County Commissioner's meeting on Monday, July 28, 2008 to enable meetings with a quorum in order for the board to take "official action".



- JNRU has a seven member board of trustees. Four (4) JNRU board members are appointed from the residents *inside* Country Squire Lakes and three (3) from the residents *outside* Country Squire Lakes. The JNRU board currently has:

- One (1) *inside* CSL vacancy.
- Two (2) *outside* CSL vacancies.

*\*Reference the Original IDEM Order (web available)*

- **1997 / 2004 Sewage Works Bonds**

- Refinancing Options

- **Option No.1 – Do nothing except make bond payments.**

- **State Response - *Bad Option; the State will not refinance existing debt without a project to address Agreed Order and failing septic systems in Jennings County. The Governor is receiving letters from residents complaining about failing septic systems being piped to County ditches in front of their properties.***

- **Option No.2 – Refinance existing debt ONLY.**

- **State Response – *Yes, but any refinancing must be coupled to a bigger plan to add more customers (repair plant, CSL collection system and solving failed septic system issues)***

- **Option No.3 – Refinance existing debt and address agreed orders ONLY; no expansion of sewers.**

- **State Response – *Yes, but prefer addition of customers to solve failing septic system problems.***

- **Option No.4 – Refinance debt and address requirements to Agreed Order, along with participation in a Sewer Advisory Board to address County's failed septic system problem.**

- **State Response – *Yes, this is the ideal option. State even proposed funding a study, extending terms from typically 20-year terms to 30-year to 40-year terms in order to make rates more affordable. In an earlier meeting, the State commented that it might even be possible to reduce rates by \$5/month for a 5-year period.***



3847 Country Manor West - P.O. Box 18 - North Vernon, Indiana 47265

Office: (812) 346-5500 - Fax: (812) 346-0838 - [www.JNRU.org](http://www.JNRU.org)

- Board Position; effect on long-term financial forecasting:
  - **2008 Project Budget**; current planned projects on financial track
  - **CY 2009 project planning**; part-time staffing budget concerns.
- **www.JNRU.org**
  - Upcoming Additions:
    - “Home Page”; we will continue to provide links to recent newspaper articles addressing board resignations and/or extensions.
    - An updated “From the Manager” article will be prepared within the next two weeks addressing funding options and repairs to the WWTP and CSL collection system. Also, IDEM Update #6 will be linked within the article.
- **Country Squire Lakes**
  - E-coli in the CSL Lake closing beaches
    - The recent E-Coli scare at the Country Squire Lake beaches prompted JNRU customers to inquire about sewage leaks and/or overflows around the lake. In response, JNRU staff verified the E-Coli limits in recreational waters of the state, explained the potential for sewage to leak from exposed sewer lines, and excavated a wet area at the marina parking lot that was suspected of leaking due to its proximity to a sewer forced main. Upon excavation, no leaks were found but ground water samples were collected and tested for E-Coli. Test results were well under the state limits of 235 colonies per 100mL/daily maximum and 125 colonies per 100mL/weekly geometric mean/month.
  - Speed bumps in utility office driveway
    - Issue still pending discussion with CSL Manager. Approached CSL Manager multiple times and have received no follow-up from him.
- **Indiana Regional Sewer District Association (IRSDA)**
  - IRSDA Newsletter, Volume 1, Issue 1; JNRU will be featured in the first IRSDA newsletter addressed as a “*success story*”. After the IRSDA board requested that I draft this article, I reluctantly accepted the assignment with an expressed concern and reluctance



to the whole *success* concept; concerned that we might not be quite there (*to complete success*) yet. Thereafter, I prepared the first draft attached to this agenda. It will be updated to reflect the fact that the JNRU board did not resign and are reviewing options for refinancing the existing sewer debt, as well as sharing information with its customer base for additional perspective and feedback.

- **Training (*IDEM Certification Program*)**
  - Six (6) staff members, including myself, are attending water/wastewater classes over the next three (3) months in preparation for State Operator exams.
- Water Department
  - **Water Meters (Water Loss)**
    - One-hundred-forty (140; *approximately 10% of active customers*) touch-read residential service meters were installed over the past two months. This should begin to help reduce the amount of lost water associated with slow (old) meters. The hand-held devices and software should arrive soon and be installed and ready for use in August.
    - All inactive water service meters were pulled (*approximately 400 meters*) to reduce the potential for water loss through leaking service valves and to prevent water damage in vacant homes. No significant user data could be collected from the meters, pertaining to water loss, due to the length of time that most of the pulled meters had been inactive and the subsequent installation of new billing software.
  - **Flushing Hydrants**
    - Fourteen (14) new flush hydrants were purchased and were scheduled to be installed this summer, however, this date is being pushed back to perform more critical work; approximately fifty-three (53) are needed to flush all of the dead ends.
- Sewer Department
  - **Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)**
    - Ammonia Violation in June: The WWTP is finally stabilizing and meeting all but one NPDES permit limit. Operational stability will



3847 Country Manor West - P.O. Box 18 - North Vernon, Indiana 47265

Office: (812) 346-5500 - Fax: (812) 346-0838 - www.JNRU.org

last until the end of July, at which time the plant will be taken off-line to make repairs to the EQ Basin. During the repair period, the raw wastewater will be diverted to the storage lagoons for approximately one month and returned to the plant for treatment thereafter. Typically, this will cause an “*upset*” to the treatment process with recovery taking several months. Unfortunately, winter will follow on the heels of the recovery process. I will be providing an IDEM update letter addressing this process within the next few weeks.

- WWTP Status Update #6; pending..., but anticipating completion within the next two (2) weeks. This letter will include the 2008 CSL collection system repairs being completed and planned projects for 2009, and the boards expressed position on refinancing options that might include repairs to the WWTP and the CSERP.
- **Collection System Evaluation and Repair Plan (CSERP)**
  - 2008 Repair Project No.1; located at the rear property line between Cliffshire Lane & Whittington Drive: Step 1) Replace one existing vacuum pit and install two additional, new vacuum pits. Step 2) Install approximately 700 feet of new vacuum sewer line. Step 3) Replace approximately 1,000 feet of 3-inch gravity sewer line with 6-inch sewer line.
    - Project complete but will need final seeding in the fall.
- **IDEM Agreed Order; WWTP / CSERP**
  - Pending funding to complete projects.



3847 Country Manor West - P.O. Box 18 - North Vernon, Indiana 47265

Office: (812) 346-5500 - Fax: (812) 346-0838 - [www.JNRU.org](http://www.JNRU.org)

---

➤ **DOCUMENTS TO REMEMBER (Signed)**

- Board Meeting Minutes approval
  - **May 29, 2008: .....** (Monthly Meeting)
- Claim Dockets
  - **May 2008**
  - **June 2008**
- DMR/MRO signatures
  - **June 2008 Reports**