



STAY INVOLVED

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As of this writing (the end of April) the word on the DEC's Asset Management Pilot Program is that selection of participants will be made later this year, possibly in the fall. With that being said, I would like to take a little time and explain the importance of the municipal contribution involvement to the process.

The municipal contribution is explained in the DEC's Guidelines for Participating Municipalities document. While there will be no costs to the selected municipalities, they will be expected to commit staff to aid the engineer in collecting data for the asset management plan (AMP), meet with the engineer and DEC to provide feedback on the process, as well as, keeping the public informed and up-to-date. The guidelines specifically list the chief operator and assistant operator for this purpose. There is no suggestion for additional people to be involved. Just the operators.

The New York Rural Water Association (NYRWA) has been assisting municipalities in the development and implementation of sustainability plans using a committee approach. A small committee is created consisting of the mayor/town supervisor, clerk, an additional board member, the operator and, most

importantly, two residents of the sewer district. The committee works together, elected officials, customers and operators, toward one common goal, a sustainable and affordable water infrastructure. NYRWA has already demonstrated that the committee approach yields positive results in the development of sustainability plans. Plans are developed that not only meet the municipality's needs but also addresses the concerns of the customers. They are, after all, the ones who must support the plan.

This same approach should be used for the AMP pilot program. A successful AMP depends on customer understanding and acceptance of the plan. The AMP is a financial roadmap for your municipality. You will have to live by this plan. It shouldn't be developed without the input of multiple stakeholders. It will require a substantial commitment from all involved. The end result will be an AMP that meets the municipality's needs, as well as, one that the customers understand and support. Isn't that the ultimate goal?

If you have any questions or would like to discuss developing a sustainability plan, please call us at (518) 828-3155. 💧💧💧