

Septic to Sewer Conversion

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The Back Story

- Septic Systems in Sensitive Areas
- Springs Protection Legislation
- Responsible Parties
 - FDEP
 - Local Governments and Utilities
- Meeting with Drew Bartlett to discuss the CHALLENGES!





Septic to Sewer Challenges

- Engineering
- Cost
- Funding
- Sustained Political Will
- Public Education and Acceptance
- On-going Proliferation of New OSTDSs







Cost & Funding Challenges

- \$15,000 to \$25,000+ per lot to extend sewer to existing neighborhoods
- Typically combined with water service
- Potential Funding Sources
 - State & federal funds
 - Local sources
- Fairness/equity
 - Who should pick up the tab?





Public Education & Acceptance

- Homeowners must understand that they are part of the problem
- Impacts to Homeowners
 - Capital cost
 - Monthly WW charges
 - Disruption during construction
 - Timing – “I just replaced my drainfield”
- Sustained Political Will
 - Consistency in multi-year implementation





Septic to Sewer Guidance Document

The intent is not to offer a comprehensive study but collect thoughts, ideas and resources from multiple sources in a single location.





Septic to Sewer Guidance Document

- Assist local governments in navigating challenges of septic to sewer
 - Fact vs Fiction
 - Technical Alternatives Overview
 - Feasibility & Cost
 - Customer Incentives & Requirements
 - Public Education
 - Elected Official Involvement
 - External Funding Sources
 - Local Funding Alternatives
 - Legal & Regulatory Documents
- Case Studies





Fun Facts...Some Things We Learned



- The first question is always about money...by far the biggest issue
- Every community is different in what they will and will not accept particularly when it comes to what they are willing to pay
- Political consistency is essential for success
- There is definitely a lack of understanding on the part of the public as to the impact of septic systems
- Grant funding is available for wastewater but not water





Case Studies



- **Broward County** made political decision in 1995. Expect to have eliminated all septic tanks by 2024. Had a Public outreach person for every community for the entire project. No assessment
- **Vero Beach** used a alternative technology called STEP and had joint funding through SJRWMD to reduce costs to the homeowner. No assessment.
- **JEA** projects require 70% of property owners in the priority area to agree to connect and sign an access agreement before project. No assessment.
- **Cape Coral's** Utilities Extension Project (UEP) provides City water, sewer and irrigation services as well as new roads storm water improvements.





Taking the Show on the Road - Promotion

- Presentations
 - FAC
 - FLOC
 - SEFLUC
 - FSAWWA
 - RRAC
 - FWRC
- Advertising
 - Websites
 - Advertisements
- One on One Meetings





In Summary.....

- Septic to sewer is being implemented successfully in some areas
- Other areas are facing challenges.
- It requires long-term commitment at local and state levels.
- Funding is key!
- We have to get the word out.



Thank You

