

## ***Solid Waste/Waste Water***

**Recommendation #1: Work with neighboring jurisdictions on a “wasteshed” basis to plan to set aside land for solid waste/waste water purposes before development causes prices to rise and selection to diminish and consider working together to consolidate facilities where appropriate. Establish re-use and recycling efforts to maximize the resources and minimize the land needed.**

- 1) Benefits to the region if implemented to local units of government, to community at-large and to business: this is an economical and environmentally appropriate approach to handling these waste products.
- 2) Consequences to the region if not implemented to local units of government, to community at-large and to business: If local units of government do not encourage re-use and recycling, more land will be needed for waste. If local units of government do not cooperate on a “wasteshed” basis, more land will be used and more resources and costs will be expended (all of which could be used for other purposes).
- 3) Ideas for incentives to encourage implementation
  - a. Local units of governments should help their residents and businesses understand that land is a finite resource, whereas some or much of our resources that end up in the waste stream can be re-used or recycled. This allows less land to be needed, which can then be used for other productive purposes.
  - b. Each unit of government working separately will cost more over the long run than working together on a “wasteshed” basis.
  - c. Appropriate management of waste also promotes environmental stewardship for our time as well as for years to come.
  - d. The incentive in all of this is that the additional land, not taken up by waste treatment facilities, can be developed (taxed) and will help to spread the costs for services among more people/more area.
- 6) Steps to implementation:
  - a. Remind civic groups and Councilors and Commission members of local units of government on this above Recommendation, these Benefits, and these Consequences.
  - b. Ideally, each local unit of government would make this recommendation a policy or Ordinance, and implement it themselves
- 7) Timeline: Basically every two years (in conjunction with our election cycle)
- 8) Stakeholders to engage:
- 9) Examples of successful models in other areas, if applicable
  - a. An example of entities working together on handling wastewater is Douglas County and the area of the Alexandria Lakes Area Sanitary District.
  - b. Douglas County’s Subdivision Ordinance, Section 5 indicates that no preliminary plat shall be approved unless the County Board determines that public facilities

(roads, etc., including sanitary sewer when located in any sanitary district) will be adequate to support and service the proposed subdivision.

- c. Within the Sanitary District, when larger parcels want to be subdivided, they need to include hooking up to the sanitary sewer. To make the economics work out, this encourages smaller lot sizes. This has the effect of limiting sprawl of “medium sized” lots - lots that can cause an economical impediment to utility extensions as the area grows (growth eventually occurs around these medium sized lots; this growth usually, due to land prices, being in the form of smaller lots that require sanitary sewer services but which are then expensive to run past these medium sized lots).