



WATERSHED NEWS

FOUNDATION

OCTOBER 4, 2006

FOUNDATION STAFF

STEVE STEWART

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

VICTORIA ANDERSON

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT /
OFFICE MANAGER

PO Box 6218
BRANSON, MO 65615
417-334-7644
FAX 417-334-7645

UPCOMING EVENTS

Volunteers needed for
Clean Water National Tour
coming to Wonders of
Wildlife **October 13-22,
2006** – interactive exhibits
for children & adults. If
interested in volunteering,
please contact
tfrey@missouristate.edu or
phone 417-836-6183.

WITH YOUR HELP
WE WILL WORK
TOGETHER TO
MAKE BEAVER,
TABLE ROCK,
TANEYCOMO AND
BULL SHOALS
LAKES THE FOUR
CLEANEST
MANMADE LAKES IN
NORTH AMERICA.

TODAY'S HEADLINES

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:

- [STORAGE TANK OVERFLOW RESULTS IN GASOLINE SPILL](#) – *The Morning News*

TO JUMP TO THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE, CLICK [HERE](#)

SEWER / SEPTIC / WASTEWATER:

- [TONTITOWN BREAKS GROUND ON SEWAGE LIFT STATION](#) – *The Morning News*

TO JUMP TO THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE, CLICK [HERE](#)

EVENTS:

- [ADVISORY GROUP TO HOST CONFERENCE IN FAYETTEVILLE FOR FIRST TIME](#) –

Northwest Arkansas Times

TO JUMP TO THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE, CLICK [HERE](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:

- [RESIDENTS ASK COURT TO HALT FUEL PLANT](#) – *Springfield News-Leader*

TO JUMP TO THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE, CLICK [HERE](#)

EDITORIALS:

- [TIMES EDITORIAL: HAPPY DAYS](#) – *Northwest Arkansas Times*

TO JUMP TO THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE, CLICK [HERE](#)

AROUND THE WORLD:

- [RISING TIDE OF SEWAGE THREATENS WORLD'S OCEANS, ENDANGERING HUMAN HEALTH, WILDLIFE](#) – *UN News Service*

TO JUMP TO THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE, CLICK [HERE](#)

[BACK TO TOP](#)

STORAGE TANK OVERFLOW RESULTS IN GASOLINE SPILL

By Melissa Blakely The Morning News

Posted on October 3, 2006

URL: <http://www.nwaonline.net/articles/2006/10/04/news/100406rzrazorbackleak.txt>

ROGERS -- Emergency crews contained a gasoline spill Tuesday that was caused by an overfilled storage tank at Razorback Terminaling.

A transfer from a pipeline caused a tank to overflow, which spilled an estimated 1,000 gallons of unleaded gasoline, said Doug Szenher, program support manager for the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality.

"One thousand gallons has been contained and cleaned up," said Szenher, "Except what has reached the soil."

Szenher said the gasoline was contained in a berm, creating a pool to hold potential spills.

"Berms are designed to contain release," said Marshal Watson, director of Department of Emergency Management in Benton County.

The spill did not reach the property surrounding Razorback Terminaling at 2801 W. Hudson St. nor was anyone hurt, Watson said.

HAZ-M.E.R.T. will remove all the contaminated soil and transport it to a hazardous material facility. The remaining soil will be tested to make sure there are no traces of gasoline and then replaced with new soil.

Watson said the plant will still be able to function with daily activities with minimal problems.

TransMontaigne Partners L.P. of Denver owns Razorback Terminaling, which receives 30,000 barrels of gasoline and distillates a day from the Razorback Pipeline, a 67-mile pipeline that runs from Mount Vernon, Mo., to Rogers, according to TransMontaigne Partners L.P.'s Web site.

A spokesperson for Razorback Terminaling could not be reached for comment.

Repeated messages left with TransMontaigne Partners L.P. were not returned.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

TONTITOWN BREAKS GROUND ON SEWAGE LIFT STATION

By Bob Caudle The Morning News

Posted on October 3, 2006

URL: <http://www.nwaonline.net/articles/2006/10/04/news/100406sztontitownsewer.txt>

SPRINGDALE -- Construction workers broke ground for a sewage lift station Monday, moving Tontitown residents a step closer to a long-awaited sanitary sewer system.

Tontitown officials began working to establish a wastewater system in 1997 but never got beyond the planning stage. The plans lay dormant for years until a Tontitown Sewer Commission was established this year.

A problem with the design of the first system caused part of the delay. An out-of-court settlement between the city and the original engineering firm earlier this year opened the door for the project to proceed.

Tontitown plans to complete a \$6.1 million sewer project, including four borings underneath U.S. 412, by June 30, according to officials of the USI Consulting Engineers of Springdale.

Restaurants and businesses along U.S. 412 are scheduled to be the first customers of the service. Septic systems used by some of the businesses are showing signs of failing. Public health officials threatened to close some businesses if the problems weren't fixed.

Tontitown buys water and sewer service from the city of Springdale.

The commission is expected to recommend that the Tontitown City Council accept the low bid of \$3.3 million from WN Couch Inc. of Tulsa, Okla., for a gravity-flow collection system. The commission had budgeted \$3.76 million for the project.

Commissioners are also expected to waive the \$300 tap fee for sewer for each 1,000 linear feet of right of way for the sewer line that a resident will give to the city for easements.

"We assumed all people wouldn't have a need for both (water and sewer lines)," said Mick Wagner, chairman of the commission. "But you put a fire hydrant close to someone's house, you've given them better fire protection."

There is mainly just inconvenience with a sewer line, Wagner said, so the waiver of a tap helps equalize the matter.

Wagner also told the commission that the bottom line for the sewer commission shows a net income 10 percent better than expected for this time in the project.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

ADVISORY GROUP TO HOST CONFERENCE IN FAYETTEVILLE FOR FIRST TIME

By DREW TERRY Northwest Arkansas Times
Posted on October 3, 2006
URL: <http://www.nwanews.com/nwat/News/45524/>

A biennial conference on watershed management and conservation will make its first appearance in Northwest Arkansas next month.

The 2006 Arkansas Watershed Advisory Group will host the event Nov. 2-4 at the Continuing Education Center and the Radisson Hotel in Fayetteville. It will consist of two days of training, a day of field experience or intensive workshop, a watershed symposium and a poster reception.

The event will help identify concerns regional citizens have for their watersheds, said Ellen McNulty, advisory group coordinator.

“ People have different concerns about what’s going on in their communities,” McNulty said. “ They can form a watershed partnership, with interested citizens, businesses, educators, agency people and organizations. When you have all these stakeholders together, you can talk about the concerns in your area and see other people’s interests in the watershed and talk about your own. ”

McNulty works with parties wanting to start a watershed organization. Several groups already operate in Northwest Arkansas — such as the Illinois River Watershed Partnership and the West Fork Environment Protection Association — but the conference next month will incorporate citizens on a more regional scale.

The advisory group is funded through the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality. This year marks the first time a conference will take place outside Little Rock, which hosted the event in 2002 and 2004. In turn, several residents from Missouri and Oklahoma already have registered.

“ We were trying to focus on the upper White River Basin,” McNulty said. “ There’s an agreement between Missouri and Arkansas to meet every other year. It was Arkansas’ turn this year. Since we were going to have the conference, we decided to go ahead and do it up in Northwest Arkansas. ”

The cost is \$ 50 per person for those who register by Oct. 15. A \$ 10 late fee will be applied to participants who enroll after that date. A limited number of scholarships are available on a first-come, first-serve basis to aid citizens wanting to attend.

To register or for more information, visit [www. awag. org](http://www.awag.org) or call 501-682-0022

About 300 people are expected to attend this year’s conference, which is titled “ Clean Water — Stronger Communities: Building Livable Communities through Watershed Protection. ”

All participants will receive a copy of “ The Clean Water Act: An Owner’s Manual, ” which explains the act and how citizens can get involved in making decisions on water resources.

Topics to be covered at the conference include community involvement and watershed teaching tools. The conference will feature symposiums and presentations from speakers representing a range of organizations and universities.

Pre-conference workshops and field experiences will occur Nov. 2 with tours of the White and Illinois River Basin, sessions on social mapping and sustainable funding, and a daylong workshop for educators.

The seminar “ Building Livable Communities through Watershed Protection” will be led by Theresa Trainor, who works with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. She is the author of the agency’s program “ Community Culture and the Environment: A Guide to Understanding a Sense of Place, ” a toolbox depicting the social dynamics involved in community-based efforts and for building local capacity to achieve environmental goals.

“ Her social mapping workshop will help people identify resources in the watershed that are important to the community, for industry or recreation so people can see the value of these things, ” McNulty said. “ Watersheds seem to be free for people to have, and this kind of makes them think about how valuable they are and how to protect them and make communitywide decisions. ”

The 2006 Poster Session will give participants an opportunity to share their own research, programs or outreach activities. The advisory group will award best-of-show awards in both community and technical categories and a "People's Choice" award to three displays.

Advisory group officials also will honor nominees and recipients of several environmental awards during the conference luncheon. The 2006 advisory group Ginger Tatom Conservation Award will be presented to a professional working in the field of water conservation. The 2006 Building Livable Communities will be given to one of the state's community volunteers.

Department of Environmental Quality Director Marcus Devine also will announce the second Arkansas Environmental Stewardship Award. The award, nicknamed the ENVY of Arkansas, honors the quality and innovation of the state's environmental projects and programs.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

RESIDENTS ASK COURT TO HALT FUEL PLANT

By Tracy Swartz Springfield News-Leader

Posted on October 4, 2006

URL: <http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061004/NEWS01/610040384/1007>

Water use concerns have fueled a group of more than 100 Webster County residents to petition the court to prevent construction of a proposed ethanol plant east of Rogersville.

The plant would drain too much groundwater and could damage nearby wells, according to papers filed Monday by Citizens for Groundwater Protection. A hearing date in Webster County Circuit Court has not been scheduled.

"They're talking about using millions of gallons and putting millions of gallons out there somewhere. It doesn't compute," said William McDonald, attorney for the nonprofit citizens group. "This ethanol plant is just not in the right place."

Gulfstream Bioflex Energy of Mount Vernon plans to develop the 250-acre plant near the junction of U.S. 60 and Porter Crossing Road.

Construction on the plant has not started, said Jeff Negre, Gulfstream vice president. Negre declined to comment on the petition or the project's progress.

The plant has faced intense resident opposition since details were announced this summer. The Webster County Commission appointed a groundwater impact committee to study resident concerns.

The committee found wells within two miles of the plant could go dry, though specific effects would be difficult to determine.

The plant is expected to generate about 1.8 million gallons of ethanol per week and use about 880 gallons of water per minute.

"What they would use in a minute is roughly equal to what 21,000 people use in one day," said Bob Schultheis, chairman of the groundwater impact committee. "It will be up to the court to decide whether it's an unreasonable amount."

Though the plant would pump hundreds of construction jobs into the county, McDonald said the potential environmental drawbacks would be too great.

"The risk-benefit ratio is just way out of whack," McDonald said. "(This plant) just doesn't make sense."

[BACK TO TOP](#)

TIMES EDITORIAL: HAPPY DAYS

Northwest Arkansas Times

Posted on October 4, 2006

URL: <http://www.nwanews.com/nwat/Editorial/45553/>

Sewage — it's not what most of us like to talk about. As long as it gets out of our homes and businesses without any problems, we'd just as soon forget about the how, the why and the cost of making it happen. Reading about the complex and confusing negotiations between communities served by the same sewer system just doesn't draw many people in. After all, it's a conversation that involves terms like "total system capacity" and "effluent" and "lift station" and "three-phase rate increase." Exciting, huh? Just because this topic might not be drama to the hilt, though, is no reason not to care. On the contrary, it's important to realize that the issues our government deals with do have an impact on our daily lives and our pocketbooks even when the discussions aren't as exciting as, say, Jessica Simpson or the sex lives of public school teachers who decide to prey on their underage charges.

If you flush a commode, do laundry, take showers — and pay for the sewer service required to do those things — it's important to you, though.

Details aside, lots of folks probably took note last week when Fayetteville and Farmington came to agreement on their future relationship as sewer service provider (Fayetteville) and customer (Farmington). Maybe the best part about it is that negotiators from both sides walked away from the talks pleased. Hopefully that's a sign that the terms were the best that could be worked out to deal with the circumstances at hand.

The results? Fayetteville and Farmington will split the cost, about \$ 960, 000, of engineering a new pump station to serve both cities. The cities will also share the costs of building the \$ 7. 2 million pump station, which will deliver sewage to the treatment plant from Farmington and part of Fayetteville. Fayetteville acknowledged that Farmington ratepayers have made contributions to the expense of building a new sewage treatment plant on Fayetteville's west side and agreed to refund \$ 264, 000 in higher rates charged to Farmington residents since 2004, but Farmington ratepayers will face the same increases as Fayetteville's in the future. The two cities also came to terms on providing room to grow for Farmington, dedicating up to 8. 2 percent of the new treatment plant's operational capacity to the smaller city's use.

No, we can't say anyone should find this exciting, but such decisions and discussions play a huge role in how our communities will develop in the coming years. It's been hard work for representatives of both towns, but we're glad to see neighbors working out their issues like, well, neighbors.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

RISING TIDE OF SEWAGE THREATENS WORLD'S OCEANS, ENDANGERING HUMAN HEALTH, WILDLIFE - UN

UN News Service

Posted on October 4, 2006

URL: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=20121&Cr=Pollution&Cr1=#>

While good progress has been made in curbing oil and chemical pollution, a rising tide of sewage is threatening the world's seas and oceans, endangering human health, wildlife and livelihoods ranging from fisheries to tourism, according to a new United Nations report published today.

“An estimated 80 per cent of marine pollution originates from the land and this could rise significantly by 2050 if, as expected, coastal populations double in just over 40 years time and action to combat pollution is not accelerated,” UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Executive Director Achim Steiner warned.

“We have a long way to go politically, technically and financially if we are to hand over healthy and productive seas and oceans to the next generation,” he said, with \$56 billion needed annually just to address the waste water problem.

Compounded by rising coastal populations, inadequate treatment infrastructure and waste handling facilities, up to nearly 90 per cent of sewage entering coastal zones in many developing countries is estimated to be raw and untreated, according to the UNEP study, the State of the Marine Environment report.

Beyond the direct health and economic impact on health and livelihoods, the report underscores rising concern over the increasing destruction of essential and economically important coastal ecosystems like mangrove forests, coral reefs and sea-grass beds.

On the positive side, it notes that levels of oily wastes discharged from industry and cities has been cut globally by close to 90 per cent since the mid 1980s, and other successes are being scored in curbing marine contamination from toxic persistent organic pollutants like DDT and discharges of radioactive wastes, though there are still areas of concern in the Caspian and western Mediterranean seas and the Arctic and South Pacific oceans.

The report says overall good progress is being made on three of nine key indicators, is mixed for two and is heading in the wrong direction for a further four, including sewage, marine litter and “nutrient” pollution from sources like agriculture and animal wastes that fertilize coastal zones, triggering toxic algal blooms and a rising number of oxygen deficient ‘dead zones.’

It also flags up fresh areas in need of urgent attention such as the declining flows in many of the world's rivers as a result of dams, over-abstraction and global warming; new streams of chemicals; the state of coastal and freshwater wetlands and sea-level rise linked with climate change.

It calls for improved monitoring and data collection on continents like Africa where the level of hard facts and figures on marine pollution remains fragmented and woefully low.

Highlighting the four areas of most concern, the report notes:

Sewage – discharge of untreated wastewater ranges from over half of that entering the Mediterranean and 60 per cent in the Caspian Sea to 80 per cent in West and Central Africa and the South-East Pacific, 85 per cent in Latin America and the Caribbean and 90 per cent in East Asia.

Nutrients - the number of coastal dead zones has doubled every decade since 1960 with the rise linked to nitrogen and phosphorus from agricultural fertilizer run off, manure, sewage and fossil fuel burning; the problem, once largely confined to developed countries, is now spreading to developing ones.

Marine Litter - sources include municipal, industrial and medical discharges as well as that from fishing boats and other shipping discharges, threatening health and wildlife, and much of it not bio-degradable.

Physical Alteration and Destruction of Habitats – with some 40 per cent of the world's population living on just the coastal fringe (just over 7 per cent of all land) and population density there set to rise from 77 people per square kilometre in 1990 to 115 in 2025, ecosystems are being lost, marine resources overused and pollution compounded.

[BACK TO TOP](#)