



TOWN OF WAITSFIELD

February 11, 2014

Dear Property and Business Owners:

On behalf of the Town of Waitsfield and Wastewater Committee, we are writing to invite you as a property or business owner in Irasville or Waitsfield Village to consider improving your on-site wastewater system through the Community Wastewater Loan Fund Program (CWLFP). Projects funded through the CWLFP in calendar year 2014 are eligible for a cost subsidy through a wastewater grant to the Town, and we encourage you to consider whether participating in this program this year could be advantageous for you.

The CWLFP provides low-cost, long-term financing for wastewater system improvements. Loans are repaid to the Town over 20 years at a fixed rate of 2.5% interest. The Town also provides project assistance to help you find and select a consultant or manufacturer, secure permits, manage construction, and meet other regulatory requirements.

Both individual and shared systems are eligible for a broad range of improvements through the loan program, including:

- Adding or replacing pre-treatment for an existing system, which we encourage our restaurants and brewers to consider seriously. Pre-treatment systems can greatly extend the life of a wastewater system that is receiving food-related waste;
- Renovation, replacement or repair of an existing system;
- Expansion of an existing system to add additional capacity; and
- Construction of a new wastewater system.

Project engineer Peter Lazorchak, P.E., at McCain Consulting and site evaluation specialist Amy Macrellis at Stone Environmental are under contract with the Town to provide you with an engineering and site evaluation consultation at no cost to you, funded in part with a Municipal Planning Grant through the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development. Both have expertise in wastewater system design, engineering and permitting. Please call our Program Manager, Amy Sheldon, at 388-9278 for more information and to set up a time to meet.

If after the initial site visit you wish to develop a planning and engineering agreement with the Town to proceed with your system, the Program Manager will work with you to select a consultant and move forward toward design and construction. Support will be available to you and your consultant throughout this process.

As noted above, the Town is able to provide subsidies to loan program participants, in the form of loan principal reduction. Generally, the Select Board is able to provide a minimum subsidy of 8% of the total project cost. However, the Town also hopes to encourage the construction, where feasible, of shared systems serving multiple properties. These systems tend to be more robust

and cost-effective over time. The Town is also hoping to encourage property owners to create additional capacity within the Irasville and Waitsfield Village districts. To encourage larger and shared systems, projects that expand treatment capacity in a substantive way (for example, capacity to add a residential unit, restaurant seats, or change of use opportunity), and systems serving multiple buildings or properties, a subsidy of up to 15% of total project cost is available. This is an excellent opportunity to expand capacity and create greater vitality for our Village and Irasville and we strongly encourage you to consider whether this would work for you.

Sound, functioning, and well-maintained wastewater systems are crucial to Waitsfield's economic health. The Town genuinely hopes to support you as property and business owners in making improvements that will add value to your property. We very much hope you will take advantage of this opportunity. Amy Sheldon and the members of the Wastewater Program are available to answer any and all questions you may have, and to work with you to improve your wastewater systems.

This opportunity comes from grant funds through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) program that remained on the table after the "big pipe" project was rejected by voters in 2008. The Town must obligate the available EPA grant funds by December 31, 2014 and must spend them by December 31, 2015. Consequently, there are strict time limits to this opportunity:

- Letter of intent by June 1, 2014;
- Design and cost estimate by September 1, 2014;
- Loan agreement and engineering completed by November 1, 2014;
- Construction completed by December 31, 2015.

Your participation in this program could not only benefit you with free technical assistance and very low cost financing, it would enable the Town to access the EPA STAG funds that will help reduce the 2008 loan obligations that will benefit all Waitsfield taxpayers.

Please contact Amy Sheldon, project manager for more information at 388-9278 or email her at landslideamy@comcast.net

Sincerely,

Waitsfield Selectboard
Waitsfield Community Wastewater Committee
Amy Sheldon, Project Manager