

Heartland

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Study names top rural sewer needs

Wastewater facilities plan lists three options for new rural lines

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HARDIN COUNTY - The project manager of a rural sewer study announced last week which areas of the county are considered high priority and gave examples of where their wastewater might flow.

Areas most in need of sewers are in the central and southern parts of the county, from Rineyville to just outside Elizabethtown to Upton.

Elizabethtown, Radcliff, Vine Grove and Fort Knox

already have sewers and wastewater treatment plants. Eleven smaller plants operate in the county - at schools and truck stops, for instance.

The Hardin County Water District No. 2 Regional Wastewater Facilities Plan lists three options for new rural lines. First, they could flow to existing treatment plants in the county's three cities and at Fort Knox. Second, waste from Upton and Sonora might travel to a Hart County plant, which has expressed interest in the project, said project manager Mark Sneve.

And third, new facilities in rural areas could process the sewage.

The amount a particular station could handle may depend on its current load. The Elizabethtown treatment center, for instance, already is at 86 percent of its capacity, according to the study. Vine Grove, on the other hand, is at 41 percent.

Almost all of the areas in most immediate need of sewers could have their lines flow to more than one of the existing or proposed treatment facilities.

"It's not a one-size-fits-all solution," said Sneve, who is with Strand Associates of Louisville. He addressed a group of county planners during a public forum about development issues.

The study, which will develop wastewater options for the next 20 years, is the first of its kind for the county as far as Judge-Executive Harry Berry knows. A planned approach like this improves chances of receiving competitive grants, he said in a previ-

Turn to SEWER, B2

TOP PRIORITY

High-priority areas for rural sewer service in the next 10 years include:

- Boone Road
- LaVista Estates area
- Burns-Deckard School roads
- Heartland Mobile Home Park
- Airview Estates
- Thoroughbred
- Estates/Thousand Oaks
- Oxmoor Village
- Gilead Church-Glendale roads
- Glendale Industrial Site
- North Glendale Road area
- New Glendale Road area
- Valley Creek industrial area
- Sonora
- Upton
- Smithersville

SEWER: Second phase will determine costs, funding

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ous interview.

Sometime in the next few months, wastewater planners will listen to public comments during a forum.

The next step of the study will be to determine how much these projects might cost and explore avenues for funding, which could include government grants. The Natural Resources and Conservation Service paid

for the \$200,000 study.

The need for sewers increases with housing development, most of which is occurring in rural areas of the county.

While these lines may spur even more development, they could help preserve the rural landscape. For example, builders could put homes on smaller lots, thereby saving room for green space. Issues such as rural preservation are a major concern with planners as they consider changes to the county's comprehensive plan.

Increasing lot sizes to

make room for septic systems is an option under consideration.

Overloaded septic systems flood lateral fields and back up sewage into homes when heavy water use overloads the system. On a half-acre lot, it doesn't take long to develop a "big odor," said magistrate Doug Goodman, a former certified septic tank installer.

"Any time you get under an acre, you're just asking for trouble with septic systems," he said.

Goodman said there is a "big need" for rural sewers.

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