



The University of Rhode Island, in partnership with the Towns of Charlestown, New Shoreham and South Kingstown, and EPA New England, invite you to participate in a one-day workshop:

**Local Wastewater Management
Starting It, Running It, and Clearing the Hurdles
March 14, 2006
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

...And An Optional Special Program 5 PM – 6 PM

Preview a demonstration of the Rhode Island Wastewater Information System (RIWIS) - a web based statewide information system for septic system inventory, tracking and management. Presented by Scott Carmody, President, Carmody Inc.

This special program is offered without charge, however, registration is required. All conference participants are welcome to attend. Municipal officials and state agency staff unable to attend the full workshop are invited to participate.

Workshop Description

Improving management of decentralized wastewater treatment systems is a national priority and a unique challenge for New England communities faced with outdated septic systems, densely settled shorelines and village centers, marginal soils, and growth pressures in sensitive resource areas.

This one-day workshop highlights the struggles and successes of Rhode Island communities who have effectively implemented comprehensive wastewater management programs to protect public health and sensitive water resources from a watershed perspective.

Presentations and displays showcase major accomplishments of coastal communities participating in the Block Island and Green Hill Pond Watershed National Wastewater Demonstration Project, other innovative programs adopted in Rhode Island and Barnstable County, and University of Rhode Island research and outreach.

Who Should Attend

- Municipal officials, including planners, managers, public works directors, boards of health, and other council, board and commission members who make land use decisions involving onsite wastewater treatment systems
- State agency staff, river council members, watershed managers and others interested in improving management of decentralized wastewater treatment systems
- RI Licensed design professionals are welcome to attend and are eligible for 4 Continuing Education Units

Program Features

- Presentations by experienced local wastewater managers on practical, tested methods for starting and expanding septic system inspection, repair and upgrade programs, including cesspool phase-out and treatment standards.
- Opportunity for in-depth discussion with local wastewater managers through organized sessions and networking breaks.
- Demonstration of current technologies for wastewater management, including web-based tracking programs, GIS applications and site assessment methods.
- Extensive list of resources for local wastewater management available through handouts and display. Plans, ordinances, and educational materials are ready to download and use directly or customize for your community.

Program Cost

The cost for licensed designers is \$150. The cost for government officials, community board members, non-profits, and private citizens has been subsidized by the Block Island /Green Hill Pond Wastewater Project, and registration for these individuals is \$25.

Sponsored by the University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension, in partnership with the towns of South Kingstown, Charlestown, and New Shoreham. This project is funded by U.S. EPA. Project partners include the RI Department of Environmental Management, the RI Coastal Resources Management Council, the Salt Ponds Coalition and the Committee for the Great Salt Pond.



Prepared by the University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension. Cooperative Extension in Rhode Island provides equal opportunities in employment without regards to race, color, national origin, sex or preference, creed, or disability.

AGENDA
March 14, 2006
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

7:30 – 8:00 Registration

8:00 – 8:10 Welcome

*George Loomis - Logistics for the day / Introduce Peter
Peter August, Director, URI Coastal Institute*

**8:10 – 8:30 Mapping the Course: Progress in managing decentralized
wastewater treatment systems.**

Rhode Island communities have made great advances in establishing local wastewater management programs. This brief overview highlights local accomplishments and supporting state programs, outlines basic elements of successful wastewater management programs, and describes trends in the use of alternative wastewater treatment systems.

*Brian Moore, RI Department of Environmental Management
(20 minutes total -15 min. pres, Q&A)*

Moderator: Lorraine Joubert

8:30–9:50 Getting a Wastewater Management Program Up and Running

Four southern Rhode Island communities have established wastewater management programs, all using slightly different approaches and methods. Representatives from Block Island, Charlestown, Jamestown and South Kingstown will introduce basic features of their program, including actions taken to implement each phase, major accomplishments, and future direction.

*Bill Healy, Block Island
Justin Jobin, Jamestown
Diane Johnson, Charlestown
Ray Nickerson, South Kingstown
(1 hr, 20 min total; 15 min each, 20 min Q&A combined at end; total)*

Moderators – Galen H. McGovern and Rob Adler

9:50 – 10:10 Break and Poster Viewing

Posters of each town's timetable of program development, including a section that corresponds to each of the workshop sessions (i.e. goals, staffing/funding, tracking, communication, ordinances/enforcement).

Town staff should try to be on hand at each poster for questions.

10:10 – 11:30 Know Where the Finish Line Is Before the Race Begins: Selecting appropriate performance goals and treatment options.

Selective use of advanced treatment systems using a watershed-based approach is an essential tool in a local wastewater management program. This session describes system selection based on watershed goals, siting issues, treatment performance, and maintenance needs. Recommendations focus on managing advanced technologies to ensure proper system maintenance and function.

- Setting goals for a wastewater management program: public health, environmental quality, system longevity, and land use management.
- Overview of current technologies, treatment performance, and maintenance needs.
- System siting issues on marginal land - research on water table fluctuation.
- Recommendations for ensuring wastewater treatment system performance through siting, design maintenance, and monitoring requirements.

*George Loomis, New England Onsite Wastewater Training Center
Mark Stolt, URI Department of Natural Resources Science
Loomis - 45 minutes - 40 min pres, 5 min Q&A)
Stolt - 35 min total - 25 min pres, 10 min Q&A for both)
Total 1 hr. 20 min*

Moderator: Dave Kalen

11:30 – 12:15 Forging Ahead: Developing Effective Programs Through Targeted Communication

At the heart of every successful wastewater management program lies an active and ongoing educational outreach effort. This session outlines tools and techniques for reaching the public using examples from RI communities. Methods for building a relationship with service providers, designers and installers are discussed from both the municipal and maintenance provider's perspective.

Describes resources available in the poster display area and on the new Wastewater Resource Center website, including: model education methods for different program stages, example educational materials, and methods for communicating with service providers, designers and installers.

Tim Cranston, North Kingstown (10 min)

Justin Jobin, Town of Jamestown (10 min)
Darlene Gardner, Superior Septic, Inc. (10 min)
(additional 10-15 minutes discussion)
(45 min total)

Moderator: Lorraine Joubert

12:15 – 1:00 Lunch

Poster Displays are available for viewing. Rm XX

Resources on the web - URI staff will showcase a new Wastewater Resource Center under construction with materials resource managers can download and adapt for their community. 12:30 -1pm, Room XX

Lisa Philo

1:00 – 2:00 The First Hurdles: Issues Common to Wastewater Management Programs

In this panel discussion local wastewater managers will briefly describe specific strategies in implementing and expanding a local wastewater management program, focusing on lessons learned and recommendations. There will be ample opportunity for discussion with the audience so please come prepared with your questions and suggestions.

Topics to be addressed include:

- Role of local volunteer boards and staff at program start-up and beyond.
- Staff skills and demands at different program stages.
- Town-hired versus private service providers (pros and cons of each).
- Interdepartmental coordination
- Coordination with service providers and DEM
- Strategies for ensuring reliable inspection results.
- Compliance and enforcement issues.
- Funding a program - estimated costs and funding sources.
- Support to homeowners – Education, Technical support and Financial assistance.
- Future directions.

Panel: Local officials from Block Island, Charlestown, Jamestown and South Kingstown.

Moderator: Dave Kalen

Handout to be provided summarizing town issues to supplement the discussion.

(Local presentations – 10 minute statement by each town representative using similar outline (40 min), followed by moderated discussion (20 min) with questions from the audience, with all presenters having the opportunity to respond to questions and comments.

Charlestown – Diane will address: role of local wastewater manager in assisting homeowners with basic program information and dealing with contractors; budgeting issues, including securing town funds to maintain program.

Ensuring reliability of inspection results and enforcement methods likely to be an issue for all towns.

2:00 – 3:00 Tracking progress: Database options to inventory systems, track maintenance, analyze performance and map results.

Together, the three towns working under the Block Island and Green Hill Pond Wastewater demonstration project have used five different database programs for septic system inventory and tracking. Focusing on current methods, this session describes issues in database setup and updating, staffing needs for database development and maintenance, value of the database in supporting management, and GIS applications for displaying and analyzing results.

*Carol Baker, South Kingstown
Diane Johnson, Charlestown
Martha Roldan, Block Island*

Moderator: Galen McGovern

- *South Kingstown’s homegrown access database linked to town parcels. (15 min)*
- *Using a web-based system for septic system inventory and maintenance reporting in Block Island. (20 min)*
- *GIS applications for wastewater management in BI and SK. (15 min)*
- *Q&A (10 min) Total 1 hr.*

Seek input from Diane Johnson, Charlestown Wastewater Program Manager, and Bonnie Ryan. Above times and topics revised accordingly.

3:00– 3:15 Break - View Posters

Same posters – have reps there for questions if possible.

Tracking Progress continued:

3:15 – 3:55 Improving management of alternative systems on Cape Cod through web-based reporting and analysis.

The Barnstable County Board of Health has started using web-based software to track maintenance and treatment performance of alternative systems on Cape Cod. This session describes use of this system to analyze results, and with

reduced paperwork, to focus on improving system management and assist maintenance providers to enhance performance.

*Susan Rask, Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment
40 min (30 min pres, 10 min Q&A)*

Moderator: Rob Adler

3:55 – 4:30 New Directions: Controlling cumulative impacts by integrating wastewater treatment and stormwater management

Jamestown has adopted wastewater treatment standards integrated with control of stormwater runoff volume to protect private wells and control nuisance flooding on marginal sites in the Jamestown Shores area. This session summarizes challenges and lessons learned in implementing Jamestown's high water table ordinance.

*Lisa Bryer, Jamestown Town Planner
35 min (25 min pres, 10 min Q&A)*

Moderator: Lorraine Joubert

4:30 – 4:50 Open forum

Discussion of local experiences in meeting challenges to system siting and treatment requirements; approaches used or planned to address stormwater controls and cumulative impacts.

Moderator: Lorraine Joubert

4:50 – 5:00 Concluding Remarks and Adjourn

George Loomis

5:00 – 6:00 * OPTIONAL SPECIAL PROGRAM * Refreshments provided

Preview demonstration of a Rhode Island Wastewater Information System (RIWIS) - A statewide web-based information management system for community wastewater management.

Presented by Scott Carmody, President, Carmody Data Systems, Inc.

- Introduction to RIWIS and proposed funding to support database setup and access – George Loomis
- Special demonstration for RI Communities using local septic system data. Provides an overview of the database, wastewater management functions, opportunities to customize for local needs, and technical support. Scott Carmody, Carmody software, Inc.

Moderators: George Loomis and Dave Kalen

