

My name is Sandy Grimes, I am the chair of the Stonington Waterfront Commission. Our commission oversees all town property adjacent to water. Thus we have concern that our sewer plants (all on town property adjacent to the water) are up to date and in excellent running order and condition

Both myself and the Commission urge the town to push forward with a plan and bond issue that will update and fix the system to enable our waters to remain clean and free of pollutants and contaminants.

The Stonington Fishing Fleet operates at the Town dock in Ston. village, the outflow from the plant is next to the dock making it a necessity that the water is clean in order for that industry to be viable. The other two plants lie adjacent to water boundaries of our town. It is of utmost importance that our plants outflow remain clean and safe for businesses (marinas, etc) and recreational activities.

please consider our request. Thank you.

Sandy Grimes
Sandy Grimes
Chair. Ston. Waterfront Comm.



Town of Stonington
Public Hearing

June 14, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

The Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce supports the bond issue to upgrade the Town of Stonington's sewer system. As a membership organization of more than 730, we are only too aware of the need for repairs, replacements and improvements to continue our good fortune healthy economic growth.

We are a town of many small businesses that rely on the commerce generated by the tourism industry and the relocation of people looking for a wonderful place to live. Despite the pandemic, we believe the region will bounce back to its previously healthy positioning as one of the few areas of growth in Connecticut. We see this sewer project as essential to those developments that are on our horizon and we don't want to see these opportunities slip away.

With the system in its current vulnerable state, if we do not act now, we are tempting catastrophe even for the businesses we already have. Our town and this region are treasures that attract many visitors from all over the world. Those visitors and the business they bring are what enable us to have the wonderful lives we enjoy. We must care not only for our natural environment but for the town infrastructure.

We need this project. Please support it.

Sincerely,

Peggy Roberts
President

Douglas Nettleton

From: Danielle Chesebrough
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 11:34 AM
To: Douglas Nettleton; Lynne Young
Subject: FW: WPCA Bond Issue

See below

From: Glenn Frishman <gfrishman1994@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 11:02 AM
To: Danielle Chesebrough <dchesebrough@stonington-ct.gov>
Subject: WPCA Bond Issue

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

ATTN: WPCA

- I am writing this letter in support of the sewer bond issue presented by the WPCA to the Board of Finance and now to the Board of Selectman representing our legislative body. As the longest serving member of the Board of Finance and having chaired that board for 18 years I have long view perspective of the town's finances. While the plants have experienced periodic up-grades the network, our infrastructure has not had the same attention.

While I personally am not on the system I am highly aware of the benefits that the system provides to all of our tax payers. Without a properly functioning sewer system we would not have the development we have had over the last few years and our taxes would be "significantly" higher on our residents. That would have a serious impact on the level of services that the town would be able to provide as well as the quality of life for those residents.

An operational sewer system protects our environment and insures that our rivers and harbors are clean and our eco-system is protected. Those who know me realize that I take my stewardship of the taxpayer's funds very seriously. I urge all members of the Board of Selectmen to approve this bond issue because it is absolutely in the interest of all Stonington taxpayers.

Sincerely,

Glenn J. Frishman

1219 Pequot Trail



MYSTIC HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

152 Elm Street • P.O. Box 352 • Stonington, Connecticut 06378-0352

June 10, 2020

Dear Members of the Water Pollution Control Authority,

I am writing in favor of a bond issuance of \$10 million for the WPCA to address capital needs for the Town of Stonington sewerage system.

As both a resident and Chair of the Mystic Harbor Management Commission, I understand the value a well-functioning sewer system brings to our community. I have served on the Commission since 1990 and over this time I have seen first-hand the importance of preventing sewage and chemicals from entering our harbor.

During the 2019 budget season our commission discussed at various meetings the importance of Stonington's Board of Finance providing matching funding for a pump-out boat that services the Mystic river. During an April 2019 meeting our now First Selectman Chesebrough attended, in her previous capacity as a member of the Board of Finance, the commission shared many reasons why the pump out boat are important, such as protecting the beach at the YMCA, the oyster farms, the shark swim between the bridges, the transient anchorage areas, and the use of the river by the crew team. The reasons for they the pump-out boat are so critical similarly apply to the reasons why we need to ensure high-quality sewer system.

Failure to improve the system could cause severe contamination and pollution of the Town's waterways and watersheds.

It is with this understanding I support the Town of Stonington seeking the funding to proceed with needed work as quickly as is feasible.

Thank you for your consideration.


David Carreau, Chairman

Douglas Nettleton

From: Steve Coan <116600n@mysticaquarium.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 6:00 PM
To: Water PC. Authority
Subject: Testimony for WPCA Virtual Public Hearing on June 16, 2020

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of the Water Pollution Control Authority:

I am writing in favor of a bond issuance of \$10 million for the WPCA to address capital needs for the Town of Stonington sewerage system.

As President of Mystic Aquarium, I can attest to the enormous costs associated with maintaining, upgrading or replacing pumping systems, tanks and pipes. As systems grow older it becomes more difficult and costly to repair them because many pumping systems are engineered and designed for specific situations and needs. In most instances, when a pump fails, it must be completely replaced which can easily run in the tens of thousands of dollars. Likewise, street pipe replacement is an expensive undertaking.

There is no question that the Town of Stonington's sewerage system is complex with three separate plants and 17 pumping stations. Assuring that repairs are made to the system while also investing in planning for a more robust, modern system is critically important to the health, environmental protection, and economic needs of the Town of Stonington.

The current system is plagued by leaks and system failures that need to be fixed immediately. Failure to do so could cause severe contamination and pollution of the Town's precious waterways and watersheds.

Even with stagnant economic growth, the sewerage collection and treatment system must be upgraded. When the present system was designed and installed in the 1960's most homes and offices had fewer bathrooms, and the use of water generally was far less than it is today. Also, the need to protect waterways and watersheds, and the adverse impact of sewerage on long-term human health was not as studied or known as it is today.

Simply put, a healthy Stonington needs a well-maintained sewerage system. It is in every citizen's interest to assure that the current system is upgraded, and that planning commences for a new one. It is essential to the economic interests of the Town that new development, properly zoned, can be approved with the knowledge that there is enough capacity to accommodate reasonable and managed growth.

As a resident of 4 Fallon Road, Pawcatuck, and President of Mystic Aquarium, I believe that the bond issuance is essential to assure the conservation of our environment and the health and well-being of our citizens.

*Stephen M. Coan, PhD
President and CEO
Mystic Aquarium
55 Coogan Boulevard
Mystic, Connecticut 06355
Office: 860-572-5935 x313
Cell: 860-625-2101*

Douglas Nettleton

From: Danielle Chesebrough
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 3:04 PM
To: Douglas Nettleton; Lynne Young
Subject: Fwd: WPCA

Another.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Greg Howard <ghoward13@gmail.com>
Date: June 11, 2020 at 3:01:25 PM EDT
To: <dchesebrough@stonington.org>
Subject: WPCA

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my support of the \$10 million sewer bond to address needed repairs, replacements, and improvements at our pump stations, underground infrastructure and three treatment facilities.

I understand the uncertainty and risks around public health and the market, and agree with the need to move forward with the plan to issue this bond this summer. While this would normally be done by referendum, it does not look possible in the timeframe that we, as a town, need this to be done, so now is the time for Stonington to trust and support our elected leaders. As a community, we have elected and entrusted the Board of Selectwomen and Board of Finance to make crucial decisions for the good of Stonington. I believe that members of these boards, in coordination with the WPCA, have thoroughly examined and researched the current needs and risks to the town, and have come to the best conclusion for the community.

Greg Howard
Pawcatuck

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Douglas Nettleton

From: Denise Easton [mailto:deniseeaston@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 10:00 AM
To: Water PC. Authority
Subject: WPCA BOND Public Meeting

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Members of the WPCA,

As a full time Stonington resident, it is essential to plan for the long term viability of our town's environmental and infrastructure needs. We have an opportunity to both stabilize and proactively develop a sewer plan for a future that is dependent on safeguarding our environment and providing adequate economic opportunities for the community.

I am in favor of approving the 10 million dollar bond.

Denise Easton
43 Main Street Stonington, CT.

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To: Water Pollution Control Authority
From: Paul G. Sartor 12 Jackson Ave, Mystic
Date: 6/12/2020
RE: 6/16/2020 WPCA Public Hearing:

Please read into the public record

Dear WPCA,

I have been a Stonington resident for +35 years. I currently serve as chair of Stonington Facilities Committee.

Thank you for all your work on this issue. This is a topic some residents likely take for granted: take a shower, flush a toilet ...and away it goes...! Well, while "sewers" may not be a "sexy" issue, ...it gets a lot less "sexy" when it's not working the way we expect.

We all know the many reasons why it is an essential municipal responsibility to maintain a seamlessly functioning waste water/sewer system ...yet we currently don't have one. For too many years I've read too many times about our sewer plants being "inefficient", "inadequate", needing "temporary repairs", "Band-Aids", "no spare parts", etc. And as my family's home is just a few hundred yards away from the Mystic plant, we've even been subject to plant odors from time to time.

I have read the minutes of your 6/3/20 joint meeting with the BOS & BOF. I fully agree with all and support this \$10 million bond proposal. It is critical these proposed improvements be completed ASAP and in such a manner that does not require annual CIP requests and "finger crossing" every hurricane season.

I am fortunate to have been involved in some significant, successful town projects: the new SHS and the recent Athletic Fields project. The primary focus of these projects were to develop proposals that result in real solutions that prudently spend taxpayer dollars. It is clear to me that "Band-Aid" options almost always result in long-term inefficiencies and wasted tax dollars.

I encourage you to please act now in favor of this \$10 million bond proposal. This is the responsible and prudent course of action.

Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,

Paul Sartor
12 Jackson Ave, Mystic
860-705-4160

Douglas Nettleton

From: Richard Easton [redacted]
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 11:52 AM
To: Water PC. Authority
Cc: Danielle Chesebrough
Subject: Proposed Bonding Request

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My name is Richard Easton. I live at 43 Main St. in the Borough. I am writing to express my strong support for the Town to pursue \$10 million of bonding authority to enable critically needed repairs and improvements to its sewer plants and pumping stations as part of a single unified comprehensive plan, rather than on a piecemeal basis. I strongly believe that a modern and well-maintained infrastructure is critically important to the Town's ability to promote economic development and improve the quality of life of its residents. Thank you.

Richard Easton
[redacted]
[redacted] (cell)

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Stonington Water Pollution Control Authority
June 16, 2020 Public Hearing

As the WPCA considers the future of the town's three sewer plants, I'm submitting this comment in favor of the bonding plan. As recently reported in The Day, WPCA and Finance Board member Lynn Young has stated that our "sewer system is in pretty dire straits."

I'd also urge the WPCA, in thinking of the long term interests of the town, to please consider the plight of Wequetequock Cove and Little Narragansett Bay in its deliberations.

Studies for more than the last 10 years have noted the degraded condition of the water quality of Wequetequock Cove. For example, a November 2015 article in The Day reports on the conclusions of a six-year study by Clean Up Sound & Harbors which "show that Wequetequock Cove, a picturesque narrow inlet on the western end of Little Narragansett Bay, has the poorest water quality of all the sites monitored." A major source of the degraded condition of the Cove is poorly maintained septic systems and septic tank runoff.

A significant step to improve the water quality of Wequetequock Cove would be to extend the town's sewer lines to include the two mile or so stretch of Stonington Road and Elm Street beginning near S. Anguilla Road where the current Pawcatuck sewer system ends. This stretch of road, which runs parallel to Wequetequock Cove, contains hundreds of homes, marinas, motels, banquet facilities, and retail stores. Many of these facilities have aging septic systems well past their useful life. Providing these homes and businesses with access to sewer lines would go a long way toward improving the quality of Wequetequock Cove.

An added benefit of this extension would allow the town to tie the Pawcatuck plant with the Borough plant which should permit for greater flexibility in the future.

Thank you,

Robert Taylor
92 Old North Road
Mystic, CT 06355

Rebekah Kepple
Morgan King
Poor Morgan, LLC
22 Bayview Avenue
Stonington, CT 06378

June 10, 2020

Town of Stonington
Water Pollution Control Authority
152 Elm Street
Stonington, CT 06378

RE: June 16, 2020 Sewer Bond Hearing

Dear Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA),

We are writing in support of the bond issuance in the amount of 10 million dollars for major repairs and upgrades to the Town of Stonington's three sewer treatment facilities. We have lived in Stonington for almost all of our adult lives and conducted our small business here for the last eight. As taxpayers and business owners we entrust that the funds being managed by the Town go towards priority maintenance and upgrades for systems that we all use and benefit from. If these fundamental improvements are not made Stonington will have more difficulty attracting new and/or retaining existing businesses, residents and investors.

We're all for Yankee thriftiness but it's clear from the review of the WPCA's operating budget and critical system infrastructure needs that this demands our immediate attention. Please move forward with the bond to repair and upgrade our sewer treatment systems.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter,

Rebekah Kepple

Morgan King

Mr. Richard Cody, Chairman
Stonington Water Pollution Control Authority
152 Elm Street
Stonington, CT 06378

June 14, 2020

Dear Chairman Cody,

I strongly support a bond issuance of 10 million dollars to continue the maintenance of, upgrades to, and the development of a new facilities plan for Stonington's sewerage collection and treatment system. I support this for two reasons, improved water quality, and support of recreational and commercial shellfishing. The two are closely related.

In the years before the system upgrades undertaken from 2010-2015 it was not uncommon for the Shellfish Commission to receive a call that the Mystic Plant has lost chlorination, and as a result partially treated sewerage containing high bacteria levels was flowing into the Mystic River. Immediately, we had to close the recreational and commercial shellfish beds in the area. Under the leadership of Jim Sisk and Hal Storrs and with over 18 million dollars of funding provided by Stonington taxpayers, that has changed. After a careful study of the performance of the Mystic Plant in 2017-2018, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture/Bureau of Aquaculture in 2019 reopened the lower Mystic River to commercial shellfishing during the winter months when the moorings are unoccupied. This change dramatically improved the growing oyster industry in the Mystic River.

Most of the funds in the 2010-2015 upgrades were focused on improvements to the Mystic Plant, but there were significant improvements to the Pawcatuck and Boro plants as well. All three plants are critical to the quality of Stonington's coastal waters. We no longer use chlorine to disinfect our sewerage effluent, so much less chlorine is discharged into our coastal waters. Exposure to chlorine is harmful to fish and shellfish, especially juveniles.

Shellfishing is important because it provides an early indicator of water quality changes. Recreational shellfish harvesting requires a much higher water quality than that needed for safe swimming. If shellfish beds are being closed, that means water quality is heading in the wrong direction and other water uses are at risk. Right now, we are seeing the reopening of shellfish beds, which means water quality is improving.

In 2010, Stonington taxpayers agreed to make a tremendous investment in our water pollution control facilities, and therefore the quality of the waters at our shore. We are



Town of Stonington Economic Development Commission

152 Elm Street
Stonington, Connecticut 06378

COMMISSIONERS

June 13, 2020

Dave Hammond
Chairman

Kevin Bowdler
Vice Chairman

Jim Lathrop
Member

Suzanne Lane
Member

Richard Balestracci
Member

Dan McFadden
Member

Bill Hobbs
Member

Virginia Abernathy
Member

Pete Robinson
Member

Kristine Halleck
Alternate

Chris Donahue
Alternate

Cullen Hagan
Alternate

*EDC Goals:
To assist in the
establishment of new
business in Stonington;
finding business
locations; State of
Connecticut and local
assistance and
incentives; introductions
to area officials and
business leaders; and area
statistics and information.*

Town of Stonington WPCA
152 Elm Street
Stonington, CT 06378

Subject: Sewer Bond

WPCA:

The Economic Development Commission (EDC) supports critical infrastructure investments in the Town of Stonington and offers this Letter of Support for the proposed \$10 million Sewer Bond. In January 2019, the EDC provided a Letter of Support for the subsequently adopted WPCA CIP requests for the Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) Study and the Mystic-to-Borough Transfer Project. The Sewer Bond follows a logical progression of pragmatic and wise investments in Town infrastructure.

The EDC advocates for the importance of the community – Town officials, residents, taxpayers – to invest in itself. Robust infrastructure, including public sewer, allows the Town to consider economic development proposals from a position of strength: sewer capacity should not be the constraint.

Upon reviewing the Sewer Bond proposal, the EDC wishes to emphasize these key justifications in support of the proposed bonding:

- The WPCA is beholden to State and Federal mandates to abide by Clean Water Act regulations. With no State or Federal funds available, funding falls to the Town.
- Proactive investments needed for compliance, uninterrupted service, and to avoid development moratoriums.
- Stonington's rivers and shoreline are a major draw for the Town's Tourism Economic Sector and must be protected.
- The Town must continue to grow its tax base to fund Town expenses like schools, essential services, and improvements that benefit the quality of life of residents, visitors, and businesses. The Town must maintain reliable sewer infrastructure such that capacity is not a constraint on economic development the Town needs.
- ***The EDC agrees that the long-range plan is essential and offers to partner with the WPCA in the planning effort, linking investment to economic return.***

In closing, the EDC fully supports the proposed Sewer Bond and recommends the bond request be sent to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance for their consideration and approval per Executive Order 7S.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Hammond
Chairman

Douglas Nettleton

From: Stacey Haskell
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 3:49 PM
To: Douglas Nettleton
Cc: Danielle Chesebrough
Subject: FW: WPCA public hearing comments

FYI

Stacey Haskell
Executive Administrative Assistant
Office of the First Selectman
Town of Stonington
152 Elm Street
Stonington, CT 06378
(860) 535-5050 (Office)
(860) 535-1046 (Fax)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 3:30 PM
To: Water PC. Authority; Stonington Selectmen
Subject: WPCA public hearing comments

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Regarding the public hearing by the WPCA on June 16, 2020 I have the following comments:

1) In general I am in favor of the \$10M bond request as I believe anything the town can do to improve our estuaries and Long Island Sound should be done as they are all labeled as impaired by CT DEEP. Various studies by the Nature Conservancy, UCONN, Eastern Connecticut Conservation District show that well over 50% of the nitrogen load to LIS is caused by sewer and septics. Here's a link to one of the studies:

<https://vaudrey.lab.uconn.edu/embayment-n-load/>

2) However, I see no mention that pending sea level rise was considered in coming up with the amount for the bond and am concerned that money being spent for upgrades and fixes will be wasted if a location becomes inoperable due to sea level rise.

3) The long term study to replace three plants with one modern plant is desperately needed. Having three outdated plants is terribly expensive and inefficient. Sea level rise will also cause more and more private septic systems to fail as the water table is pushed up thereby flooding the homeowner's systems. The Mystic and Stonington borough plants, along with some pumping stations will eventually be flooded.

I would especially like the WPCA and town to investigate how the Town of Arcata (CA) [and other cities] treats their wastewater - they created a marsh.

<http://www.arcatamarshfriends.org/the-marsh/wastewater-treatment/>

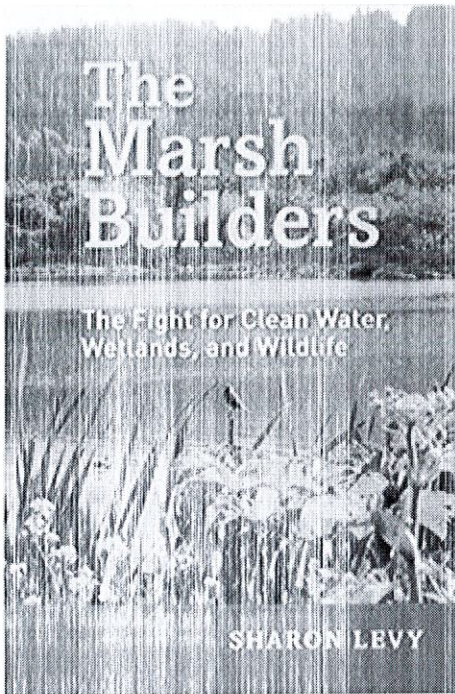
Not only does the marsh treat wastewater less expensively, it offers wildlife and recreational benefits. This natural system has been used in thousands of places around the world.

<https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/constructed-wetlands>

<https://sonoraninstitute.org/card/from-sewage-to-sanctuary-las-arenitas-treatment-wetland/>

Sea level rise eventually is going to inundate almost all of the marshes in Stonington. There is no place for marshes to migrate due to AMTRAK and development. The town could work with CT DEEP to transform Barn Island WMA into a new type of marsh to filter our wastewater while benefiting wildlife. Dredging material is almost always available to build up the new marsh and there could be quite a bit of conservation funding available to create it which would lessen the financial burden to the town.

There was a book written about it for those that may be interested:



The town should also consider purchasing the land that has been for sale at 238 Palmer Neck Road. There aren't a lot of empty lots near the waterfront. If the town decides to go ahead with a constructed wetland plan, this lot might be used for a land swap for part of BIWMA for the facility needed to support the marsh treatment facility. If not used for such a facility, it could become a town owned park.

Rick Newton
32 Meadowbrook Lane
Mystic

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Douglas Nettleton

From: chris bleuher <bleuher@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2020 1:48 PM
To: Water PC. Authority
Subject: treatment plant upgrades

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

Has the Town considered alternative procurement methods other than bonding or capex out of the Town budget? I'm referring to energy performance contracting which is an long-established method of procuring capital improvements paid for through the decrease in the community's energy operating budget, see attached link:

https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2018/03/f49/WIP_ESPCGuide_Wastewater_FINAL.pdf

Depending on the type of improvements necessary at the site, performance contracting can be a cash-neutral vehicle for realizing the improvements. There are CT-based consultants who will provide no-cost evaluations to determine if the Stonington plant is a good candidate.

Without taking this option into consideration, I am against the bond issue for improvements at the sewer plant.

Regards,

Chris Bleuher
7 Diving St.
Stonington, CT 06378

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