

Search

SEARCH NEWS/ARCHIVE

- Hot Ads
- Garage Sales
- Classifieds
- Braidwood Journal
- Coal City Courant
- Free Press
- Calendar
- Organizations
- Obituaries
- Sports
- Columnists
- Opinions
- Photo Gallery
- Submit News
- Submit Sound-off
- Place An Ad
- Subscribe Online
- About Us
- Contact Us
- Ask Us
- E-Mail Updates
- Links
- Site Map

**ORDER PHOTOS**



**HERE**

**ILLINOIS AMBER ALERT**

3H PARTNERSHIP WITH ILLINOIS PRESS ASSOCIATION

home : [braidwood journal](#) : [braidwood journal](#)  
1/19/2010 11:35:00 PM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2010  
[Email this article](#) • [Print this article](#)

## Wastewater facility plans move to next level

**Marney Simon**  
Staff writer

The city of Braidwood is another step closer to expanding its wastewater treatment facility. The city got the go-ahead from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to take the next step to build a new facility. That step is to bring the plans for the new, 2-million gallon oxidation ditch plant to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

"The meeting with CMAP went well," Public Buildings and Property Commissioner Jim Hutton told The Braidwood Journal. "They recommended approval to [IEPA] with no reservations."

Hutton said the next step is waiting for the IEPA to issue a NPDES permit. NPDES stands for "National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System," and it regulates point sources that discharge pollutants into waters. That permit process could take up to two months. After that, the city can start the bidding process for the plant.

"It's a huge step for this town to do," said Hutton.

The city began to explore options for expansion of the wastewater treatment facility back in 2006, when daily flows began to dramatically increase in Braidwood. In September of last year, the council voted to approve plans for an oxidation ditch. The existing plant has a capacity of about 660,000 gallons per day. However, the plant is currently taking in nearly double that on a regular basis. Over the past few years, flows have drastically increased into the wastewater plant, with daily flows almost always at maximum capacity. Over the past five years, the plant has seen several surges up to 2-million gallons per day, and inflows of 1-million gallons on a fairly regular basis.

The new facility will replace the current plant, which uses extended aeration to treat wastewater, but will still use some components of the current system in the layout. The oxidation ditch is a series of rings that literally swirls the wastewater around, separating out the solid wastes from the water. From there, the solid waste is eventually turned to sludge, while the water is clarified and later sent into the Claypool drainage ditch.

The new system will be able to handle about 2-million gallons daily, which is more in line with what the city will need. The plant will also be able to withstand surges of up to 7 million gallons. The new system will have a 35- to 40-year life expectancy, and should handle growth to about 15,000 residents.

The plans for the new facility unfold in two phases. Phase I is for the proposed, 2-million gallon oxidation ditch. Phase II would double the size of that plant as necessary. Hutton said that Phase II probably won't need to be implemented for several more years.

advertisement [jump to rest of article ↓](#)

*Clean up your act at*

**WILMINGTON SPEEDWASH**

**We have 50 washers & 24 dryers to serve you!**

Corner of Jefferson and South Water St., Wilmington  
Open 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. • 7 days a week

The new site will sit on seven acres straight west of the existing plant. That property purchase was approved by the council on Jan. 12 for \$315,000. The estimated total cost of the project is about \$17.6 million. Of that, \$8 million is expected to come out of the TIF fund. The remaining dollars will

Wilmington



34°F  
NE 9 MPH  
Click for forecast  
www.wx4u.com

**Need a good car?**



We've been helping with projects for over 110 years!

**ACE**  
The helpful place.

**Send Fresh Flowers**

**COURTYARD flowers**  
815-478-7784  
We Deliver!

be paid out through a low interest IEPA loan. Hutton said he's working on a plan to pay that loan off early, so that the city can save up for even more expansion if necessary. Hutton said the loan will likely be financed for 30 years, but he hopes the city can get it paid off in 20 years, giving the city 10 years to save money for if and when Phase II becomes necessary.

One thing the city is not planning on as part of the expansion is providing service to the proposed RidgePort intermodal facility. Hutton said that while RidgePort will need services, Braidwood's plans for the new wastewater treatment facility will only service the city itself.

In addition to approval from the IEPA, the city will need to keep the Claypool Drainage and Levee District in the loop. According to a Jan. 7 memo sent by the Claypool district to Mayor Sue Grygiel, "Claypool is focused on floodplain, floodway, and the cumulative effect of effluent as it is affected by the complete Claypool system. While most data submitted for your IEPA permit is sufficient for the IEPA, depending on your engineer, data that Claypool needs may or may not exist."

The memo continues, "Storm water and effluent flow, floodplain and floodway issues, and basic erosion issues at the point of connection to the stream flow are Claypool's main concern... Our purpose in doing this is protecting your rights for a proper connection and document oversight to support everyone if litigation from upstream or downstream property owners ever challenges any of us in malicious claims. It is not to hinder or impose duplicate costs in the permitting process. The better the joint participation, the faster, less costly, and faster the paperwork can be completed."

The water district will review information from the IEPA, then contact the city if necessary for any additional data. Hutton said that during the CMAP process, Claypool reported that they have no objections at this time. Hutton noted that the city has already contacted Claypool's engineering firm, and communications continue between the two entities on flow data. Hutton said sharing the information with the water district is a normal part of the process, intended to keep the project environmentally safe and keep things moving in the right direction.

The city hopes to break ground on the project sometime this spring. The entire construction process is expected to take about 18 to 24 months.

"I think we're doing the right thing," Hutton said. "This is the size we need, so we're moving forward."

## Article Comment Submission Form

---

Please feel free to submit your comments.

Article comments are not posted immediately to the Web site. Each submission must be approved by the Web site editor, who may edit content for appropriateness. There may be a delay of 24-48 hours for any submission while the web site editor reviews and approves it.

**Note:** All information on this form is required. Your telephone number and e-mail address are for our use only, and will not be attached to your comment.

<b>Name:</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Telephone:</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>E-mail:</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Passcode:</b>	<p>This form will not send your comment unless you copy exactly the passcode seen below into the text field. This is an anti-spam device to help reduce the automated email spam coming through this form.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"></div> <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">Please copy the passcode exactly - it is case sensitive.</span> <input type="text"/>
<b>Message:</b>	<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; min-height: 100px;"><input type="text"/></div>
	<input type="button" value="Submit"/> <input type="button" value="Clear Form"/>

**Place your ad here!**

**Phone (815) 476-7966**

Copyright 2009 by The Free Press Newspapers Wilmington, IL, 60481