



At Your Service...

A Newsletter for the Citizens of the City of Midland

September 1999

Dear Citizens:

In July 1999, the City's engineering consultants, Hubbell, Roth and Clark (HRC) presented a proposal to improve Midland's sanitary sewer system. Now, Midland City Council wants to know your thoughts and preferences on the proposed improvements.

The City Council is particularly interested in hearing about your desire for the City to undertake a major upgrade of our sanitary sewer system.

In the next few weeks Midland City Council will sponsor two important opportunities for you to make your opinions known:

The September 15 **MGTV5 Community Question** program so you can ask specific questions about the HRC July '99 proposal;

And the City's **Meeting at the Mall** on September 22 for you to discuss the proposal one-on-one with knowledgeable staff and our consulting engineers.

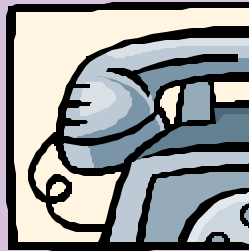
Many in the community will also be asked to participate in an opinion survey to help determine citizen reaction to the efforts made so far in resolving the sanitary sewer problems.

There are many opportunities to get involved with this issue. Please take a moment to learn about the proposal to improve Midland's sanitary sewer system. Whether it's by phone, by mail or in person... let us know what you think.

Sincerely yours,

Karl S. Tomion
City Manager

LET'S TALK SEWER PROPOSAL



**MGTV 5
COMMUNITY
QUESTION:
MIDLAND'S
SANITARY SEWER
SYSTEM**

**Wednesday, September 15
7 p.m. - 8 p.m.**

*Call in with your questions about the
HRC July '99 proposal*

837-3474

Hosted by: WSGW's Cameron Knowles
Featuring Mayor R. Drummond Black
City Manager Karl Tomion
Utilities Director Noel Bush
HRC Engineer Jim Aiello

MEETING AT THE MALL

**Wednesday, Sept. 22
9 a.m. - 9 p.m.**

**Midland Mall's Food
Court Center**

stop by to review the
HRC July '99 proposal in
more detail and to talk with
Midland City Council,
City staff and HRC



NEW IMPROVEMENTS . . .



GOOD PROTECTION

LESS COST

Given typical weather conditions, Midland's sanitary sewer system adequately conveys sewage and storm water (which enters the system primarily through footing drains) to the wastewater treatment plant with few problems. However, during heavy rainfalls, like the 200-year storm that Midland experienced on June 21, 1996, the sanitary sewer system receives more storm water than it can handle and sewage backs up into some basements.

Last November, City residents turned down a \$48 million bond proposal that would have improved Midland's sanitary sewer system to protect the community against sewage backups that might occur given a 200-year storm, which is the equivalent of receiving 4" of rain in 3 hours.

Following this defeat, Midland City Council sent the engineering firm of Hubbell, Roth and Clark (HRC) back to the drawing board. This time, HRC's goal was to design improvements that are less costly than those defeated in November, but provide more protection from sewer backups than what our current system offers.

HRC has developed a proposal that would protect the Midland community from sewage backups that could occur as the result of a 50-year storm, which is the equivalent of receiving 2.7" of rain in 3 hours.

Using a series of specific engineering calculations, HRC evaluated how a 50-year storm would affect each of Midland's 30 pump station districts. This study identified five areas of the City where sewage could back up into basements due to system deficiencies.

This table outlines the system deficiencies identified by HRC and the proposed solutions as reported in more detail in HRC's July '99 proposal



The HRC July '99 improvements not only address the deficiencies, but they do so without "shifting" sewage backup problems to those pump station districts that can presently handle the effects of a 50-year storm event.



Compare the Costs

The total cost to protect Midland against sanitary sewer backups at the 50-year storm level is \$15.8 million. Is this a good value compared with other alternatives?

	Current System	HRC July '99 Proposal	HRC Nov. '98 Proposal
Protection Against Sewage Backups in a...	25 Year Storm	50 Year Storm	200 Year Storm
Amount of Rain...	2.4" of rain in 3 hours	2.7" of rain in 3 hours	4.0" of rain in 3 hours
Cost to Improve the System to This Level of Protection	\$0	\$15.8 million	\$48 million

**THE HRC '99 STUDY
IDENTIFIED 5 AREAS OF
MIDLAND THAT WOULD BE
AT RISK OF SANITARY SEWER
BACKUPS IN THE EVENT OF A
50-YEAR STORM**

- Valley District
- Nelson District
- E. Ashman/Waldo Rd. District
- Patrick Rd. District
- Gravity District
- Areas with sufficient capacity for a 50-year storm

AREA	Amount of Sewage Generated in a 50-Year Storm	Capacity of Existing Sanitary Sewer System	Sanitary Sewer System Deficiency	HRC July '99 Proposal
Areas west of Eastman Ave. and north of Sugnet Rd.	15.74 mgd	12.67 mgd	-3.07 mgd	Pump Station Improvement
Patrick Rd. area east of Waldo Ave.	1.32 mgd	1.15 mgd	-0.17 mgd	Pump Station Improvement
E. Ashman St. east of Waldo Ave.	2.62 mgd	1.15 mgd	-1.47 mgd	Pump Station Improvement
South of Sugnet Rd., east of Eastman Ave. & west of Swede Ave. (Nelson St. district)	15.47 mgd	7.06 mgd	-8.41 mgd	New Pump Station (Nelson St.)
East of Swede Ave.	12.28 mgd	4.3 mgd	-7.71 mgd	New forcemain on Saginaw Rd. from Sugnet Rd. to the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
Total Sanitary Sewer System Deficiency	47.43 mgd	26.33 mgd	-20.83 mgd	<i>mgd = million gallons per day</i>



What Do You Think?

City Council wants to hear what you think your City government should do with your sanitary sewer system. So whether it's by phone, by mail or in person let us know,

In your opinion should we...

...implement the HRC July '99 proposal as presented?

...improve on the HRC July '99 proposal by considering the following: _____
(what suggestions do you have?)

...accept the level of protection of the existing system and drop plans for multi-million dollar improvements?

... continue to incrementally improve the efficiency of the sanitary sewer system through improvements (like separating roof drains from the system) which can be financed within annual City budgets?



Write to Midland City Council

- 333 W. Ellsworth, Midland, MI 48640
- E-mail: cityhall@mindnet.org

Leave a Message

- on the Citizen Comment Line, 837-3400

Contact Your City Council Representative Directly

- R. Drummond Black, Mayor, Ward I, 496-2722, rdblack@rieckerlaw.cnchost.com
- John S. Coppage, Mayor Pro Tem, Ward II, 832-7602, coppage@concentric.net
- John W. Tysse, Councilman, Ward III, 631-8278, johnT39481@aol.com
- John R. Moolenaar, Councilman, Ward IV, 835-9555
- Marty A. Wazbinski, Councilman, Ward V, 631-6928, wazbinski@home.net

Contact the City Manager

- Karl S. Tomion, 837-3301, tomionk@mindnet.org



What Happens Next...



City Council will spend the next month talking with you;



Randomly-selected residents of our community will participate in a statistically-valid survey on the HRC July '99 proposal;



In October, City Council will evaluate the formal and informal feedback that you have provided and will decide what to do with the HRC July '99 proposal.

At Your Service ...

is produced by the City Manager's Office,
333 W. Ellsworth, Midland, MI 48640.
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Midland City Council

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John Tysse, Ward III
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Marty Wazbinski, Ward V

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