

City Council Workshop with Legislative Delegation

March 20, 2023 @ 5:15 PM

Biosolids Disposal

1. Welcome and Introductions

As the 131st Legislature is in full swing, we'd like to express our thanks for your ability and willingness to meet with the City Council to discuss our shared concerns.

Our primary focus of tonight's workshop is to share how our ability to dispose of biosolids is an essential daily part of the treatment process that impacts not only the residents, organizations and business of Bangor, Hampden and Hermon but our ability to be good stewards of our natural resources.

2. Wastewater Treatment Facility Presentation

The City's Director of Water Quality will review the attached slides that provide a nice overview of what occurs within a treatment facility.

3. Discussion

When we were notified, like many others, that the landfill operator would no longer accept biosolids, the entire industry was upended. We are thankful to Maine DEP and others for the current short-term fix that simultaneously allowed Juniper Ridge to resume accepting a portion of the biosolids and diverting 2/3rds of the material to New Brunswick, was established so quickly. We know Maine DEP is working diligently on this issue with both the Legislature, administration and other stakeholders.

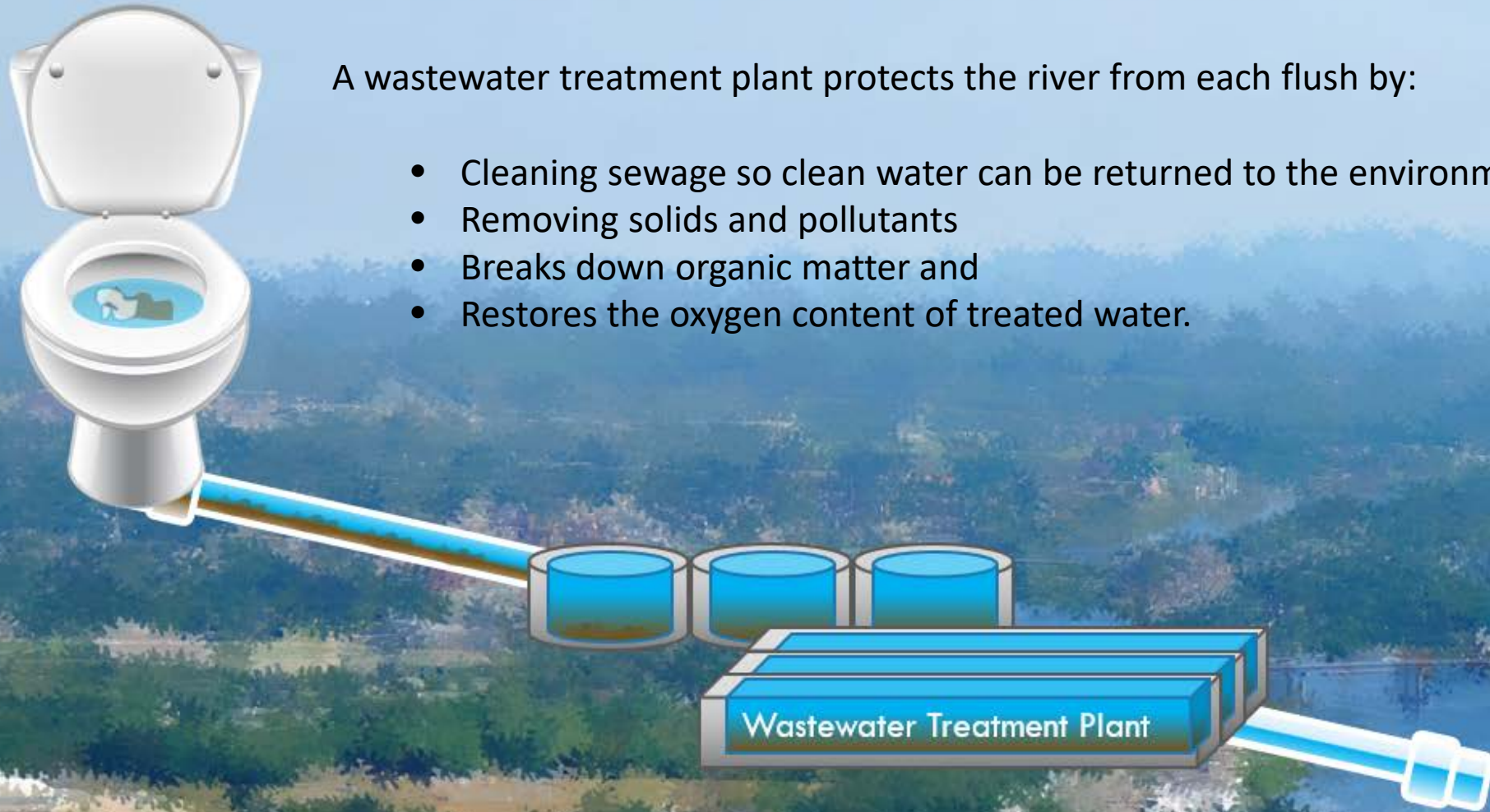
Our intent is to highlight our concern regarding the tenuous nature of the existing approach and to express that time is of the essence. If transporting the material to New Brunswick should be curtailed, by the business or Canadian officials, and/or Juniper Ridge again needs to cease or reduce the amount of materials being accepted, without a Plan B, the industry will once again be in crisis mode. Based on the information we have, no additional disposal options have been identified. Should a disruption occur, our facilities do not have unlimited capacity to store biosolids. In dry conditions we can adjust operations to delay disposal for a 1-2 week period. In wet weather conditions, our capacity shrinks to as few as 1-2 days. Should any portion of the current short-term solution be curtailed, there needs to be an emergency Plan B that can be implemented immediately. Based on our understanding, the ability to provide an emergency Plan B, would require immediate legislative approval unless there is some form of legislatively delegated authority within the administration.

We are committed to making our staff and resources available to participate in the development and implementation of a long-term, sustainable solution that will benefit both the people and waters of our state.

WHAT IS WASTEWATER TREATMENT?

A wastewater treatment plant protects the river from each flush by:

- Cleaning sewage so clean water can be returned to the environment.
- Removing solids and pollutants
- Breaks down organic matter and
- Restores the oxygen content of treated water.



WHAT ARE BIOSOLIDS?

Biosolids are the solid portion of raw sewage.

Removing biosolids from the liquid in raw sewage is the first step to protect the Penobscot river



WHERE DO BIOSOLIDS GO?

Wastewater treatment plants are designed to have all biosolids hauled offsite

In 56 years,
this process has
never been disrupted



WHAT HAS CHANGED?

On February 23, 2023 removal of solids was disrupted

On February 24th a temporary solution was put in place to ship biosolids out of state



WHAT HAPPENS IF BIOSOLIDS AREN'T REMOVED?

Sewage could only be
properly treated for 2-
14 days

Bangor cleans the equivalent of:

7.5 MILLION FLUSHES/DAY



WHAT IS PLAN "B" ?

The City of Bangor is asking the State of Maine Legislature to take necessary steps now to create additional avenues for Maine to responsibly manage our biosolids

