

Community leaders get update on interceptor rehabilitation project

By Brian Roebke
Editor

The Heart of the Valley Metropolitan Sewerage District held another community meeting for participating communities to update them on the upcoming interceptor rehabilitation project last week at the Combined Locks Civic Center.

"This whole project is addressing all the needs of the system so when we're done, we're done," said Scott Schramm of Strategic Municipal Services. "That's the whole idea."

SMS was hired by the sewerage

district to guide it through the upcoming multi-million dollar rehabilitation of the existing 5.5-mile interceptor system, constructed in 1977, that has experienced corrosion of the concrete pipe and structures.

The cost is yet to be determined, but was estimated to be \$21.8 million in 2017, with the actual construction cost not known until bids are let in the fourth quarter of 2022.

Funding will come from the sewer utilities in Combined Locks, Kaukauna, Kimberly, Little Chute, and Darboy, who had multiple rep-

resentatives at the meeting, both appointed and elected.

Their costs will likely be passed on to their customers.

Without installing a liner inside the pipe that carries sewage from the communities to the treatment plant by the paper mill in Kaukauna, the system will continue to deteriorate and require more substantial and costlier repairs in a few short years.

This capital project will address all the needs of the system for an estimated 50 years.

The key message for the commu-

nities at this meeting was that HOVMSD is going to begin working with senior leadership staff, public works directors, parks and rec directors, to start working out details at a fine level getting ready for construction.

They also want to formulate a very simple "memorandum of understanding" agreement with each community about the scope of the project and the needs they have for physically accessing the infrastructure.

"This project is going to take several years," Schramm said. "From

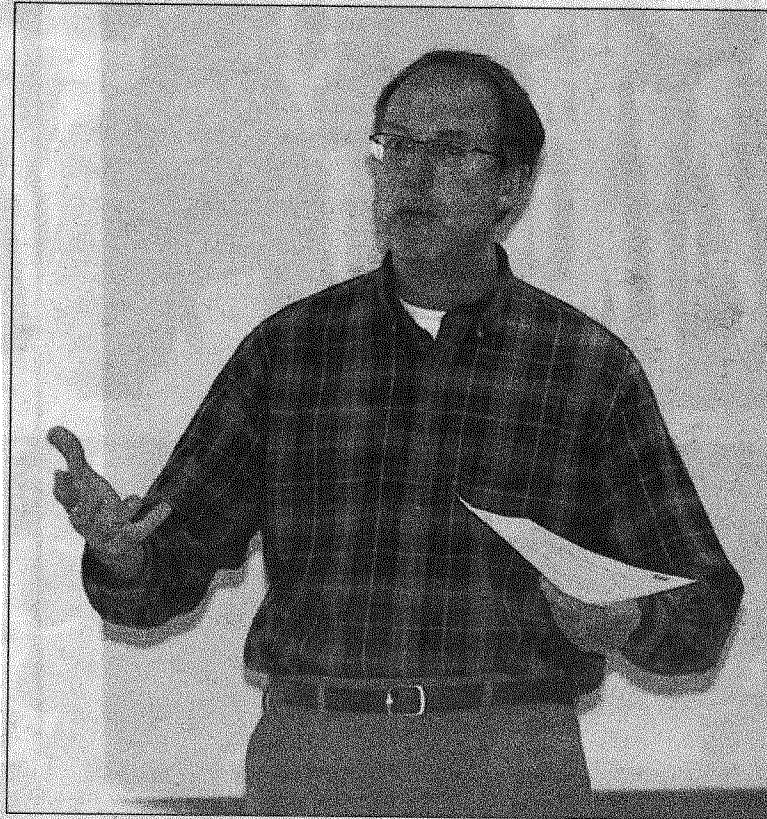
here, it's roughly three years until we're done."

There will be small pockets of residences that are next to the work, particularly in Little Chute and along the north bank of the river in Kaukauna. The people living by Heesakker Park and Vandenberg Lane, and Pheasant Run are going to be living by a bypass pumping station that will be constructed to divert sewage out of the system while it's being worked on.

Presently about 40 percent of the interceptor pipe is lined, so about 60 percent of the pipe is the original concrete piping that is being corroded by bacteria.

Construction is expected to begin in the second quarter of 2023, with completion a year later.

To learn more about the project, go to hvmsd.org.



Brian Roebke photo

Scott Schramm of Strategic Municipal Services updated the communities in the Heart of the Valley Metropolitan Sewerage District last week about the upcoming interceptor rehabilitation project that's scheduled to begin construction in the second quarter of 2023.