# ONSITE WASTE WATER SYSTEMS (OWS) UPDATE

Davis County Board of Health
8/13/2019

# WASTEWATER REGULATION

- Responsible for implementation and enforcement of the State's Wastewater Rule (R317-4 Onsite Wastewater Systems)

- Purpose
  - The purpose of this regulation is to preserve, promote, and protect the public health, safety, and welfare of residents and visitors in Davis County by establishing: minimum standards for the management of wastewater; and, practices and provisions for the proper installation, operation and maintenance, and abandonment of onsite wastewater disposal systems

# HISTORY

- Philosophy & Approach
  - Community wastewater systems first, then individual wastewater systems
- Board of Health Regulation
  - First Adopted – April 3, 1979
  - Revised and Amended – 1982, 2011, 2012, & 2018
- Pressure to Adjust Philosophy & Approach
  - Experimental systems proven to be viable alternative systems
  - Growth and land development
  - State Law and Rule changes
- 2012 Amendment Allowed Alternative Systems

# WASTE WATER SYSTEMS PROFILE

- Public Wastewater Systems
  - Three public operated wastewater systems
  - Approximately 99% of homes are on public sewer system
- Onsite Wastewater Systems
  - 450 (Estimated)
    - 17 Alternative Systems

| Year | OSW Installations |
|---|---|
| 2013 | 5 |
| 2014 | 8 |
| 2015 | 5 |
| 2016 | 0 |
| 2017 | 5 |
| 2018 | 2 |
| 2019 | 5 (so far) |

# CURRENT SITUATION

- Development pressure is high
- August 9th, County Commission approved an amendment to the Land Use Ordinance (Unincorporated areas)
  - Eliminated all A-1 and A-5 zoning
  - Eliminated all AE zoning except within the Mutton Hollow Township
  - Created a new A-10 Zone
    - Allows a maximum of 1 home per 10 acres
  - Does not address public health concerns directly
    - Density
    - Groundwater contamination (Nitrates & Phosphates)

# POTENTIAL OUTCOMES OF ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

| Zone | Parcels | Acres | # Units Current Zoning | # Units Proposed A-10 Zoning |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A-1 | 683 | 6,758 | 6,758 | |
| A-5 | 298 | 10,981 | 2,196 | |
| AE | 64 | 239 | 478 | |
| Totals | 1,045 | 17,978 | 9,500 | 1,800 |
| Difference | | | 7,700 | |

# WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

- Slows growth in unincorporated county for a little while
- Encourages annexation into municipalities
- However, municipalities face the same issues the County faced
  - Lack of services
  - Land use ordinances that allow substantial growth (Lot sizes)

# WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO HEALTH?

- Continued development pressures
- Need to study environmental impacts of growth
  - Density
- Continued work with municipalities to ensure people and environments are not harmed
- Advocating for Public Health's philosophy and approach
- Potential use of Board of Health's regulatory authority

# QUESTIONS

