



## Press Release

### **INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON THE NORTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD SEWER SEPARATION PROJECT SET**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 19, 2014

Rutland, VT – On Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, there will be a public informational meeting concerning the Rutland City sewer bond question on the March Town Meeting ballot. The meeting will be held at Northwest School on Pierpoint Avenue beginning at 6:30 PM. City and project officials will be on hand to explain the project and answer questions.

Article 2 on the March 4, 2014 ballot seeks permission from the voters to borrow up to \$5.2 million for the Northwest Neighborhood Sewer Separation Project (NNSSP) to make improvements to the combined storm and wastewater sewers in a 50 acre neighborhood in the northwest section of Rutland City. It is anticipated that state grant funding will reduce the required borrowing to \$3.9 million.

The improvements will reduce the number of combined sewer overflow events, which occur when rain storms overwhelm the ability of the wastewater collection system and plant to handle the flow. When this happens, combined untreated wastewater and stormwater are discharged directly to East or Otter Creek. Other project benefits include dramatically reduced local storm-related street flooding, prevention of combined sewer backups into homes and businesses, and significant improvements to the street-level infrastructure in the neighborhood.

Since June 29, 2012, the City of Rutland has been under a State Enforcement Order to reduce combined sewer overflow incidents. If we do not complete the NNSSP by December 31, 2015 we will be in violation of the Enforcement Order. This could result in fines of up to \$25,000 per day levied against the City by the State of Vermont or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Approval of the sewer bond on March 4<sup>th</sup> is necessary to comply with this schedule.

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