

## Whitley County Regional Water & Sewer District

### Public Meeting

July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**I.** What is a Regional Water and Sewer District (Regional District)?

Indiana Code 13 – 26 allows for the formation of a regional district for water, sewage, solid waste or a combination thereof.

- What is their purpose?
- Who approves them?
- How are they formed?
- How are they governed?
- How are they financed?

**II.** Regional Districts are currently in operation throughout the state.

There are more than 100 Regional Districts in Indiana

Of these, almost 20 are ‘county-wide’ districts: Allen County, LaGrange County, Elkhart County

Others nearby: Tri-Lakes, Leo-Cedarville, Maysville (Harlan), Turkey Creek, Lakeland

**III.** Five Take Aways

1. The Whitley County Regional Water and Sewer District will be a stand-alone agency and chartered by IDEM.
2. This Regional District will bring its own funding sources (rates, fees, grants, and other assistance) to projects they pursue for the relief of failed and failing septic systems and drinking water projects throughout the unincorporated areas of Whitley County.
3. Monthly rates (utility bill) for Regional District customers will be higher than most providers in the area because customers are paying for two things:
  1. The cost of the monthly service, and
  2. The cost of actual projects that were necessary to provide them service.
4. Projects will be neighborhood petition-based projects. That is, neighborhoods that are undergoing a utility service project will first have been through several meetings and information sessions and then have demonstrated that a majority of residents seek the utility service(s).
5. The Whitley County Regional Water and Sewer District will provide municipalities and other agencies in Whitley County effective affordable methods for improving public health and environmental stewardship for the individual homeowners that can also contribute to opportunities for community growth and economic development.

**IV.** Review and Questions