



JUNIATA VALLEY COUNCIL

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA.

August 26, 2010

TO: Juniata Valley Council Volunteers, Seven Mountains Alumni, and Friends of Juniata Valley Council
FROM: Wes Miller, Council President
Jim Kennedy, Scout Executive
SUBJECT: Seven Mountains Scout Camp Septic System Project

The Juniata Valley Council is in the midst of developing a Strategic Long Range and Master Plan for Seven Mountains Scout Camp. An important aspect of that plan is to evaluate all aspects of the facility for current and future use.

On July 2nd officials from Potter Township conducted an inspection of the septic systems throughout Seven Mountain Scout Camp. This was done with Charlie Harklerode – Seven Mountains Scout Camp Facilities Manager/Ranger, David Peck – Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 32 in State College and professionally designs septic and sewer systems, and Jim Kennedy – Scout Executive. Additionally Past Council President Tom Songer of the Torron Group was consulted.

During the inspection it was noted that eleven of the twenty-four existing septic systems are either out of date, in need of significant repair, has reached their capacity, or usefulness and need replaced.

Working together, a plan was developed – along with a timeline to make these necessary repairs and replacements in time for the start of the 2011 Summer Camping Season and remain compliant. This plan, along with associated costs was presented to and approved by the Juniata Valley Council Executive Board on July 28 at Seven Mountains Scout Camp.

Part of the plan includes:

- Installation of a new tight tank at Rover Cabin
- Removal of the existing Kybos at Robbie & Stevie Horn campsites
- Running septic lines from new wash stands at the Horn sites to a central location (site of the old Scout craft area) where a tank - and in the future – a new individual shower house/restroom facility will be installed
- Running Septic lines from Wood, Wald, Leopold Cabins to a new field in the upper site area
- Installing new Kybos, wash stand and installing a tight tank at Wallace Campsite
- Removing the existing Kybos and wash stands at Elks and Moyer and building a new facility midway between the two sites
- Installing tanks at Pioneer cabin and running lines to the Firelight Pavilion area where a new tank and field will be installed

To accomplish this major undertaking in this timeline sacrifice/inconvenience, and significant expense will occur.

Work will begin immediately with perk testing in designated areas. The new tank at Rover was installed two weeks ago. In the past week those Kybos previously mentioned have been removed and excavation work will after on September 1 in the upper sites. There may be temporary interruption of water throughout camp during this project.

FAQs:

What is all this going to cost? We estimate costs for this project to be \$105,000 – excluding a new shower house / restrooms in the upper site which has been initially projected to cost an additional \$80,000.

How will this be paid for? Council Leadership has established a special Ad Hoc Committee to oversee this project including construction and funding. The Council Executive Board is committed to completion of this project however they will not jeopardize the financial sustainability of the Juniata Valley Council to do so.

We have developed and are approaching a list of potential funders and resources. We know this will be difficult given the current economic conditions. Rental rates for use of Seven Mountains have been increased – due in part to the need for increased monitoring, pumping of the tanks and upkeep of the new systems. Given local and state requirements for operating a camp, we have no alternative acceptable options if we are to keep the camp operational.

Does this mean the camp has been unsafe? NO. The repairs and replacements (installed from the 1930's through the 1960's) are necessary to meet today's requirements.

Doesn't the council have extra money? Why not pay it from there? The council does not have a large surplus of funds. We have been fortunate over the past six years to modestly balance the operating budget; however the surplus each year has been a minor amount of money that has been reinvested in the camp and council.

What about the Council Endowment Fund? Our Endowment Funds provides a small amount of the investment gains annually to supplement the operating budget (in 2009 we took \$15,458.00). The principle (funds original donated) cannot be touched and the Council Finance Committee and Executive Board have closely watched investments and withdrawal of funds closely with the uncertain economical times.

What are the expected dates for this project? Work will begin immediately and will conclude by June 15, 2011.

Will use of camp be affected? While we do not anticipate closure of any buildings, it is possible that areas of camp may have construction in progress which may alter your plans. As work continues, we will provide advance notice to groups using camp as to areas to avoid and any other information which will affect their use of Seven Mountains.

Work will also be updated on www.jvcbsa.org.

Have the plans taken into consideration possible expansion and use of the camp in the future? YES! While we are meeting today's needs, we have made sure the system is built to accommodate new facilities in the future.

Can my company, Scouting Unit or I contribute money or materials to this effort? YES! Individuals, groups, businesses may contribute financially or by donating materials. Financial gifts should have "Capital Fund" listed on the memo line of the check. Please contact Jim Kennedy for a list of materials, specifications needed. Significant gifts will be given the opportunity to be recognized with "naming rights" on available areas. For more information please contact Jim Kennedy for more information.

While we work to fund this project and solicit donations, financial support of the Juniata Valley Council Operations (Friends of Scouting, Popcorn Sales, Good Scout Dinner, etc) is essential for the council and camp to survive.