STATE OF INDIANA	)	BEFORE THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT
	) SS:	OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
COUNTY OF MARION	)	
IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
	)	
THE FORMATION OF THE	)	
	)	
JACKSON TOWNSHIP	)	
	)	
REGIONAL SEWAGE DISTRICT	)	

FINDINGS OF FACT AND RECOMMENDED ORDER OF THE HEARING OFFICER

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On July 7, 1997, the Blackford County Commissioners and the Blackford County Council petitioned the Indiana Department of Environmental Management for an Order establishing a Regional Sewer District to be known as the Jackson Township Regional Sewage District in Blackford County.

2. On July 2, 1997, the Blackford County Council, the Blackford County Commissioners, and the Jackson Township Trustee, authorized the formation of the Jackson Township Regional Sewage District.

3. Said Petition complies with the provisions of IC 13-26-2.

4. A public hearing was held on March 12,1998, in the Millgrove United Methodist Church, 2934 South 500 East, Millgrove, Indiana.

5. Notice of said hearing was given by publication in newspapers of general circulation in Blackford County, in the Hartford City News and Times for two (2) consecutive weeks prior to said hearing. Notice was also given by mail to each eligible entity involved.

6. The proposed name of the District is the Jackson Township Regional Sewage District.

7. The principal offices of the proposed District would be the Blackford County Health Department, 503 East Van Cleve Street. Hartford City, Indiana 47348 .

8. The sanitary sewage needs of those residents now residing within such proposed District are currently being met with septic systems, many of which are failing.

9. Upon formation, the District will construct and operate a system which will collect and treat the sanitary sewage of the residents of such District.

10. Such District is needed to facilitate the construction of a system to collect and dispose of the sanitary-sewage of the residents.

11. The current method of collection and disposal of the sanitary sewage of the residents of such proposed District is affecting and can affect detrimentally the water quality and public health of the area of the proposed District.

12. The residents of the proposed District currently obtain their water for drinking and other purposes from private wells.

13. The proposed District will include all properties lying within ½ mile of the center of the intersection of County Roads 300 South and 500 East, Blackford County, Indiana.

14. There currently is no outstanding indebtedness in the proposed District for the purpose of collection and treatment of wastewater.

15. The current Citizens' Committee will become the Board of Directors of the District. The Board will thereafter be elected by the voters in the district at large in the annual meeting of the District. The proposed District shall be governed by a Board of Trustees of seven members, each ultimately serving a three year term. So that the terms will be staggered, the initial Board members shall serve the following terms:
Three (3) members - Initial three (3) year terms.
Two (2) members - Initial two (2) year terms.
Two (2) members - Initial one (1) year terms.

16. The initial project being planned for the District includes the construction and operation of a collection system and a treatment system in Jackson Township, Millgrove, Indiana. The estimated construction cost is seven hundred, twenty-two thousand dollars ($722,000.00). For the sewage system, the connection fee for an existing dwelling is projected to be three hundred dollars ($300.00). The average monthly per household user fee is projected to be forty-four dollars ($44.00).

17. Funding for the project being planned for Jackson Township RSD will come from a combination of Indiana Department of Commerce (Community Focus Fund) (a $500,000.00 grant), and the Rural Economic and Community Development) (a $222.000.00 loan).

18. The anticipated sources of funds to provide for the operating and maintenance costs of the District will be from the monthly sewer user fees.

19. The District appears capable of accomplishing the purposes for which it was formed, in an economically feasible manner should it receive the anticipated grants and loans..

RECOMMENDED ORDER

The Hearing Officer recommends the following:

1. That a Regional Sewer District, to be known as the Jackson Township Regional Sewage District, be organized as an independent political entity of the State of Indiana as a body corporate and politic.

2. That the purpose to be accomplished by said District is to provide for the collection, treatment, and disposal of sewage inside the district.

3. That the District shall include a part of Blackford County, Indiana, described as follows:

   All properties lying within ½ mile of the center of the intersection of County Road 300 South and 500 East, Blackford County, Indiana.

4. The current Citizens' Committee will become the Board of Directors of the District. The Board will thereafter be elected by the voters in the district at large in the annual meeting of the District. The proposed District shall be governed by a Board of Trustees of seven members, each ultimately serving a three year term. So that the terms will be staggered, the initial Board members shall serve the following terms:
   Three (3) members - Initial three (3) year terms.
   Two (2) members - Initial two (2) year terms.
   Two (2) members - Initial one (1) year terms.

5. That the Board of Trustees provide sufficient bond for all officers, trustees or employees who have any power to disburse funds of the District.

6. That within nine (9) months from the date of this order, the District shall file with the Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, a detailed plan for the construction and operation of the District's facilities.

Dated: 4/27/98 Hearing Officer: Lynne Newton