6 **Built Environment**

***6.2Water and Wastewater***

***Vision Statement – Water and Wastewater. The Town has uninterrupted access to clean drinking water and effective and environmentally acceptable waste water treatment and disposal.***

***6.2.1 Current Situation[[1]](#footnote-1)***

Municipal water and wastewater services are provided by Sussex County in conjunction with Rehoboth Beach. Sussex County maintains the water and wastewater infrastructure that serves Dewey Beach, and Rehoboth Beach supplies water and treats wastewater for Dewey Beach under a contract with Sussex County. Renewal of the contract for this arrangement was last approved by the Rehoboth Beach City Council in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Water**

Rehoboth Beach water supply service has a supply capacity of 6.5 million gallons per day (mgd). An additional 1.9 mgd is permitted. As the 2010 Rehoboth Beach Comprehensive Development Plan explains, “there is a notable seasonal variation in the demand for water – consumption [by the City of Rehoboth beach] ranges from a low in March of [0.66 mgd] to a high in July and August of nearly 3 [mgd]. Currently the City also serves an extensive area outside the City (The developments of Sea Air, North Shores, Breezewood, and the Dewey Beach Sanitary Water District). Water demand was estimated at 2.8 [mgd] in 1984 and is projected to rise in 2010 to an average of 4.6 [mgd] with a maximum daily demand or 6.9 [mgd].” And, “While current water supply and current water quality is not a constraint on future growth of the City, the new and growing land uses around the City’s well heads pose future problems for the aquifer from which the City’s water is drawn.” Also noted in the 2010 Rehoboth Beach Comprehensive Development Plan is that, “Several critical water system improvements have been made over the past few years including a new waterline under Silver Lake …; two new water wells and one relocated well at the Lynch Treatment Facility; the addition of fluoridation to all wells including the Lynch project”.

Dewey Beach’s water requirements are impacted by the seasonal influx of population during the summer months. During the fall and winter, the town requires an average of 0.25 mgd with a peak usage of 0.30 mgd. This demand jumps to an average of 1.1 mgd and a peak of 1.2 mgd during the late spring and summer months. Growth projections by the City of Rehoboth Beach suggest that its wells should continue to adequately meet the demands of Rehoboth Beach and the surrounding areas that is water supply service supplies, including the Town of Dewey Beach. And therefore the supply of clean water should not pose any constraint on future growth and development in the Town. According to a \_\_\_\_\_\_ report from Sussex County (?), the water provided to Dewey Beach meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements

**Sewer**

Wastewater treatment services for Dewey Beach are contracted in the same manner as its water services. The Town is within the Dewey Beach Water and Sanitary Sewer District managed by Sussex County. Sussex County contracts with Rehoboth Beach to treat the wastewater from Dewey Beach at the City of Rehoboth Beach Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). The existing WWTF was built in 1989 and was upgraded in 1994 and 1997 to implement biological nutrient removal and chemical phosphorus removal. In addition to Rehoboth Beach, this facility serves the developments of North Shores (4% of flow) and Henlopen Acres (4% of flow), and the Dewey beach Sanitary Water District (36% of flow). WWTF is designed to provide advanced tertiary treatment to 3.4 mgd, and is capable of treating a peak demand of 5.4 mgd. Approximately 1 mgd of the facility’s normal operating capacity is allocated to serve Dewey Beach.

As cited in the 2010 Rehoboth Beach Comprehensive Development Plan, “The Federal Clean Water Act requires states to identify waterbodies that do not meet water quality standards and to impose a “Total Maximum Daily Load” (TMDL) on both the point and non-point sources that discharge to the eater body. The TMDL is intended to limit the pollutant discharges so that the water quality will improve. In 1996, portions of both the Indian River and the Rehoboth bay were listed as qater quality impaired and subject to the development of a TMDL. The TMDl was issued in August 1998, and required that ‘all point source discharges which are currently discharging into the … Rehoboth Bay, and their tributaries shallbe eliminated systematically.’ Thus, the Rehoboth Beach WWTF, which discharges into the Lewes-Rehoboth canal, had to find an alternative method to discharge its treated wastewater.” The one City operational and enforcement action for sewer and water in Rehoboth’s 2010 comp plan is, “Select and fund a wastewater discharge method.” Execution of this action is still pending.

**6.2.2 Critical Issues and Plan Objectives and Recommendations**

Continued water and sewer service are critical for the on-going reputation of Dewey Beach as a National Five Star Beach and prime tourist destination. Rehoboth Beach’s effective comp plan calls for the City to cooperate and consult with the jurisdictions responsible to monitor and manage the land uses and impervious cover near their wells, including Sussex County and the State of Delaware, to protect these wells from new and growing land uses in the area. In a similar manner the City is working through selection, funding, and development of an effective method for the disposal of treated effluent from its WWTF. As a major customer of Rehoboth Beach’s water and sewage treatment facilities, Dewey Beach needs to be aware of the operational status of these facilities and cooperate with Rehoboth Beach as it works to maintain and improve its water and sewage treatment facilities.

**Obj.W&S - 1 Uninterruptable access to clean water and sanitary sewer services**

A high-priority recommendation is to protect property values and provide for the health safety and welfare of the population by:

* Cooperate and consult with the jurisdictions responsible for providing water and sewer services to Dewey beach to ensure continued access to adequate water and sewer services.
1. Data from Dewey 2007 comp Plan and Rehoboth 2010 Comp Plan; need to check/update numbers as appropriate. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)