

# David Duttlinger: 'Greenist' project protects Lake Carnico watershed in Nicholas County

Oct 8th, 2013 · 0 Comment



*Lake Carnico in Nicholas County (Photo provided)*



Eighteen dedicated individuals, committed to preserving the environment and promoting Nicholas County, gathered on the crest of Hickory Ridge Road in late September to commemorate the opening of the Nicholas County Sanitation District No. 2 treatment facility.

“This is truly the most green project you can imagine,” said David Foster, a sanitation district board member. “With zero discharge, no effluent and 100 percent treatment, the Nicholas County Sanitation District has protected the entire boundary of the Lake Carnico Watershed.”

Then in rhetorical questioning, he asked Brad Montgomery, vice president of GRW Engineers, “How many Lakes in Kentucky can claim that they are free from septic tank discharge?”

“Not nearly enough,” was Montgomery’s somber response.

But Nicholas County is no longer on the somber side of things. Through a dedicated team consisting of NCSD2 board members Denny Gallagher, Kristi Morris, Jim Biddle and David Foster, the past three county judge-executives Mike Pryor, Kenney Lyons, and Larry Tincher, state Rep. Sannie Overly and Sen. R. J. Palmer, committed citizen members Ginny Kingsolver, Dr. Wendell Kingsolver, and former Bluegrass Area Development District employee Don Hassall, Nicholas County was able to accomplish what everyone else had told them was impossible.

The project consists of a collection system that picks up sewer from holding tanks at each of the 103 residential houses around Lake Carnico. A low



*Ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Nicholas County Sanitation District No. 2 treatment facility (Photo provided)*

pressure system then pumps the sewer to the top of Hickory Ridge where it is filtered through a bed of gravel. Bacteria provide natural cleaning of the water where the wastewater is filtered five times on average before returning to the pump house for final disinfection by ultraviolet lights.

From there, the water is sent to one of five discharge points underground where it is naturally returned underground. There is 87,000 feet of drip tubing involved in the entire process. The whole process is considered so clean that a permit for operation is not needed from the Division of Water.

Few projects such as this ever result without the strong and driving force of local leaders like Nicholas County Sanitation District No. 2 Chair Denny Gallagher. I don't recall any other project that took nearly so long from its conceptual development to the ribbon-cutting as did the NCSD No. 2's project. Over many years, I am sure that the temptation was strong to throw up one's hands and say, "It's not going to happen; let's just file this idea away and go home."

As the Area Development District sought to provide assistance and guidance over the years, many trips were made to Frankfort and elsewhere to meet with people who could "have a say" over this project.

On a number of occasions, the ADD called Denny and said we need to make a trip to Frankfort tomorrow to discuss the sewage problem around Lake Camico. Denny's reply was always, "Where is it that you want me to meet you and what time do you want me there?"



And with that, he made the trip and missed another day or another partial day of work to put food on his family's table. That is the kind of persistence, resilience, and dedication that Denny Gallagher has demonstrated over the years that has—today—resulted in the success story that was witnessed on Sept. 30. Many Nicholas County leaders worked together to make this happen, but Denny Gallagher was the captain of the team.