

# Information for Prospective Trustees of the Romney Regional Sewer District (RRSD)

## What is a Regional Sewer District (RSD)?

An RSD is formed by local units of government with approval from the State (IN Dept of Environmental Management) to oversee the handling and treatment of wastewater within the District. Indiana Code grants RSDs a wide range of powers in order to carry out their duties, including ability to borrow, hire, purchase real estate, collect payments, and more.

## Why was the Romney RSD formed?

Properties within the community of Romney had aging and failing septic systems that contributed to contamination of the area, causing a public health concern. Residents and local business owners approached the County to support the development of a community sewer services to improve property values and encourage development. The purpose of the District is to reduce the risks to public health and the environment posed by failing or inadequate septic systems through the provision of sanitary sewer collection, treatment, and disposal services inside the proposed district territory.

## What are the primary responsibilities of being a member of the Board?

Board members are required to attend at least one regularly- scheduled board meeting per month to carry out duties as described below. It is important to note that for some projects, board members will also be expected to volunteer time outside of meetings to assist with various matters.

Terms range from 2- 4 years, depending on appointing body.

## What are the main duties of the Board?

RSD Boards oversee all managerial, financial, and even operational aspects of their utilities.

## Will the Board have any assistance?

YES! There are many resources to help the new District board. The Rural Community Assistance Program provides free training, document templates, resources, and on-site (or virtual) assistance, with every aspect. The Indiana Regional Sewer District Association is a membership organization representing RSDs at the Statehouse. The IN Dept of Environmental Management staff are also willing to answer questions. Additionally, the Board has professionals to guide them, such as an attorney, engineer, and a financial advisor.

## What qualities and skills are helpful for board members?

The best board members are committed to the Board's mission, understand the importance of the project on the well-being of the community, have strong ties to the project's residents, are highly responsible, and hold themselves to a high ethical standard.

Helpful (but not required) skills/experience include: accounting/bookkeeping, HR, legal, construction, plumbing, sewer, leadership, volunteering, soils, water, laboratory, communications, grant-writing. Ability to use email is highly recommended.