

An Overview of The Rhode Island Wastewater Information System (RIWIS)

State, Municipal and Private Sector
Perspectives

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Common Questions

1. What are the benefits of web-based tracking program?
2. How does a “sponsorship program” work?
3. How is RIWIS a State program?
4. How can my community benefit from RIWIS?


Benefits of a Web-Based Tracking Program

- Access from any internet connection
- Password protected
- Secure with daily back-up
- Easy to link with other databases and GIS
- Enhances coordination among service providers, communities, and the state
- Facilitates inter-agency communication

Capable of Tracking :

- Inspection and compliance information
- Permit information
- NOV's and correspondence
- Cesspool phase out
- Maintenance of enhanced treatment systems
- Pump-out records
- Commercial, large and high flow systems
- Alternative and innovative systems with multiple components in treatment train
- Sampling / monitoring results and analyses


Other Municipal Capabilities :

- Pavement Management Program
 - Harbor / Mooring Permit Database
 - Online Permitting
 - CEU Tracking
 - GIS Compatibility
 - & More.....
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Automatic Inventory and Notification Services

- Systems needing inspections
- Overdue inspections
- Systems that failed inspection
- Systems needing repair or maintenance

RIWIS Sponsorship Program

- RIWIS is now funded by industry sponsors.
 - Provided free to URI, RIDEM, other state agencies, and RI communities.
 - Represents a substantial cost savings to communities
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Sponsorship Program: How it Works



Rhode Island Wastewater Information System

Start

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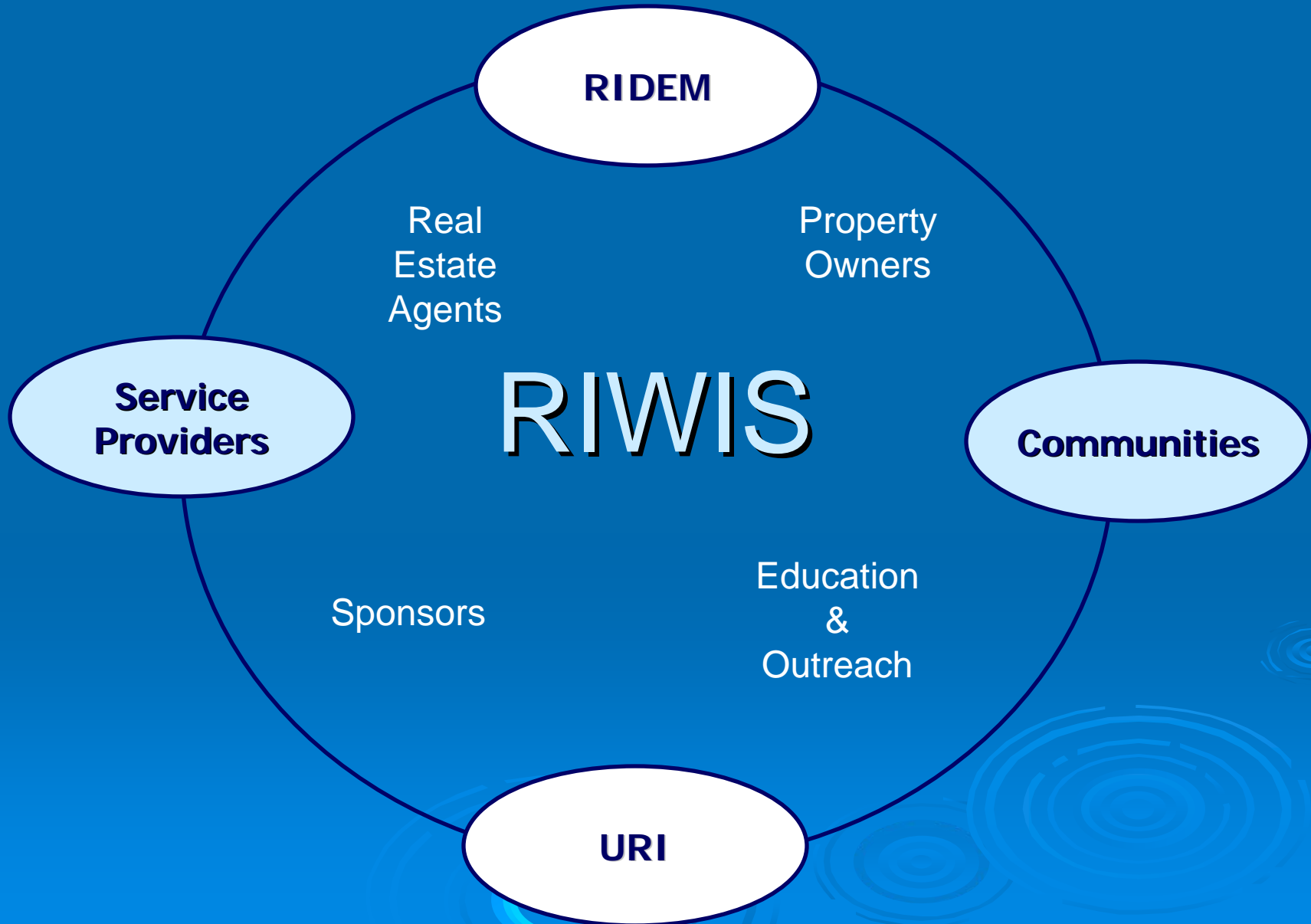
Sponsorship Program Details

- Advertisements will be kept on the “login” page only and will not interfere with users or function of the system. There will be no pop-ups or flash banners.
- The sponsors will not have access to the database, unless they are also a local service provider, in which case they would have access to only their client’s information.

How is RIWIS A State Program?

- Often confused w/ DEM Program
- RIWIS is a state program in the sense that it unites all sectors of RI wastewater management
- URI and Carmody have developed a simple, standardized format that is Plug-n-Play compatible for all RI Communities.
- Each sector / user will essentially have their own database

RIWIS: THE BIG PICTURE



RIDEM'S ROLE

- Will make ISDS Permit & Application data available to participating communities
- This data will provides a barebones “state” database
- Provide periodic updates to RIWIS
- Access to this information allows communities start building wwm program before adopting ordinances.
- May use RIWIS to track performance of large systems subject to DEM permit requirements.

URI'S ROLE

- Worked with Carmody on RIWIS concept
- With towns, developed “management blocks” to ease community WWM
- Worked with RIDEM to acquire permit database
- May use monitoring data to research and evaluate system performance in future.
- Provide regular training and technical support to RIWIS users

Service Provider Benefits

- Consistent Reporting for All Communities
- One Username & Password
- Free Management Program
 - Can Track When Clients are due for service
 - Notify Communities when client doesn't renew contract
 - Instant access to client information
 - Secure & Password Protected
 - Different levels of access keep private information safe, while automatically reporting required information to state and communities

Community Benefits

- Consistent with other towns
- Easy access to state information
- Flexibility!
- Pre-set inspection reports, fact sheets, and letters that communities can use & edit with specific town requirements
- Essentially FREE (\$100 a year membership)

Summary

- RIWIS is an inexpensive but powerful management program that provides service providers and communities with their own database, that has access to RIDEM data, and is compatible with town-tested “management blocks”

Are there any questions ?





Background on RIWIS

- There is a recognized need for a state-wide computerized wastewater information management system.
- There is an urgent need for state-wide tracking of performance and operation and maintenance of large flow and I&A systems.
- Several RI communities are using Carmody Data Systems, 2 towns having switched to this system after considerable investment in other conventional tracking programs.

Background on RIWIS

- In December of 2005, OWT Center applied for a CELS CARES grant - to develop a standardized state-wide information system for onsite systems
- Several communities and non-government organizations wrote strong letters in support of the project
- Unfortunately, grant was not awarded for this project
- However, interest was still strong to find other ways to fund the project

Moving Forward: Sponsorship Program

- Idea of a RIWIS Sponsorship Program was presented to URI
- RIWIS would be funded by industry sponsors and provided free of charge to URI, RIDEM, other state agencies, and Rhode Island Communities
- Representing a substantial cost savings to communities