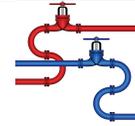


Gallatin Gateway Water & Sewer District

Serving Gallatin Gateway since 2009

Sewer Connections



Fall 2015

Protecting public health by providing affordable, regulatory-compliant wastewater services to the Gallatin Gateway community.

Board of Directors:

Ted Border, President
tborder@gatewaywsd.com

Eric Amend, Vice President
eamend@gatewaywsd.com

Merle Adams
madams@gatewaywsd.com

David Sullivan
dsullivan@gatewaywsd.com

Ashley Kroon
akroon@gatewaywsd.com

District Contact Info:

**Gallatin Gateway County
Water & Sewer District**
P.O. Box 383
Gallatin Gateway, MT 59730
www.gatewaywsd.com

General Manager:
Matt Donnelly
gm@gatewaywsd.com

Treasurer/Secretary:
Maralee Sullivan
msullivan@gatewaywsd.com

Customer Service:
customerservice@gatewaywsd.com

Here is a recap of the District's activities over the summer months:

- In late June the District received an amendment to the 2011 Letter of Conditions issued by USDA, Rural Development, which effectively reduced the interest rate to be charged on its \$1.65M loan package from 3.375% to 2.125%. In other words, the District can borrow more money, if needed, while keeping the same loan payment and not incur additional debt.
- In mid-August the District received a draft discharge permit from MDEQ, utilizing SBR treatment technology for its Cottonwood Road site. Four parties commented during the 30-day public comment period, which ended September 16. MDEQ now needs to determine if they will be holding a public hearing prior to issuing the final version of the discharge permit.
- As previously advised, an appeal was filed earlier this year with the Montana Supreme Court by GGWSD and MDEQ, for partial summary judgment of the 18th District Court's December 2014 decision on the claim of trespass made by Gateway Village, LLC. The GGWSD brief argued that the District Court erred in its conclusion that the discharge of wastewater from the GGWSD wastewater treatment system into ground water, though authorized by the State of Montana, constitutes a trespass upon the "rights" of Gateway Village. The Court issued its decision on September 29, 2015, and vacated the District Court's ruling on this issue. More information on the case can be found on-line at the following link:
<http://supremecourtdocket.mt.gov/search/case?case=17611>
- In August District GM Matt Donnelly began discussions with the Board of Directors of the Four Corners Water & Sewer District (FCWSD), as to the possibility of connecting to their treatment and disposal system. Connecting to FCWSD was one of the options considered in the District's PER (preliminary engineering report) completed back in 2010, but at that time wastewater services were provided to FCWSD by Utility Solutions, a private provider of wastewater treatment and disposal services. In 2010 the GGWSD Board deemed this option to be unsuitable to the needs of the community of Gallatin Gateway due to excessive costs and uncertainty over the terms of ownership of GGWSD

assets. In May of this year, however, the people of the community of Four Corners voted overwhelmingly to purchase the assets of Utility Solutions. With this and other substantive changes in conditions since the release of the PER in 2010, the Board authorized Mr. Donnelly to enter into discussions with FCWSD on obtaining a bulk rate for treatment and disposal of wastewater. The FCWSD Board have endorsed our project and expressed a desire to enter into a contract to treat our wastewater (they cannot sign a binding agreement until they complete the purchase of the private utility, expected to be December 2015). The GGWSD Board also directed its engineers to complete a review of the 2010 PER in light of current conditions and issue an amendment either affirming the preferred alternative identified in 2010 (construction of a public wastewater infrastructure), or identifying a new preferred alternative. The District applied for, and received, additional grant money to fund the revision of the PER. A public meeting was held on September 30 at the Gallatin Gateway Community Center, for the District and its engineers to share the findings of the PER and solicit public comment.

GGWSD monthly board meetings have moved! Our new location is the Board Room of the Gallatin Gateway School, 100 Mill Street. The meetings are held at the same time, 6:30 PM on the first Monday of each month. All members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend. Agendas are posted prior to each meeting at the Gallatin Gateway post office and are also posted on our website at www.gatewaywsd.com. Approved meeting minutes are also posted on our website.

Quarterly newsletters are sent to all landowners in the District to keep them updated with activities of the sewer district, and are also available via email for all those interested in being on the distribution list. If you have tenants living in your property, or know of any renters currently residing within the District who would like to receive a copy of the quarterly newsletters, please email us at customerservice@gatewaywsd.com and we will be happy to add their name to the distribution list.

Are you moving or selling your property? Please let us know! Just a moment of your time will greatly help us to provide the most timely, accurate invoices and correspondences to our customers. Please drop us a note or email us at customerservice@gatewaywsd.com.

The quarterly \$6.00/month Benefited Lot Charge invoice is enclosed for customers of the District. This charge covers general and administrative expenses of the District, not covered by loans and grants. It is applied on all platted lots in the District. It is not the same as a "sewer bill". Only properties with sewer connections will be charged for sewer service once the sewer project is complete.

Payments received after the due date listed on the invoice are subject to a \$10 late fee, so please ensure your payments are mailed on time.

If you would like to receive your invoice & communications by email, please email your request to customerservice@gatewaywsd.com.
