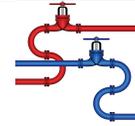


Gallatin Gateway Water & Sewer District

Serving Gallatin Gateway since 2009

Sewer Connections



Summer 2015

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

Here are a few project updates since our Spring Newsletter:

Board of Directors:

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- GGWSD learned in March that it has been selected to receive approximately \$200,000 in grant money from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, to assist in the design and construction of its wastewater system project. The grant is part of a "Section 595" program that provides grants or reimbursements for water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects, pursuant to the Water Resources Development Act of 1999. "The District's Board continues to keep the best interests of the community at the forefront of its decision-making," said General Manager Matt Donnelly. "This grant represents yet another example of the Board's diligence in trying to keep rates affordable when our system comes on line. I am inspired to have the opportunity to work with these community-minded volunteers."
- GGWSD has filed an appeal with the Montana Supreme Court from that portion of the 18th Judicial District Court decision of December 28, 2014, for partial summary judgment on the claim of trespass made by Gateway Village, LLC. The GGWSD brief argues 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 Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has joined in this appeal and has filed a brief of its own with the Court. A decision is not expected until later this year. The timeline of the District's design and construction phases of the sewer project will not be impacted by the Court's decision. More information on the case can be found on-line at the following link: <http://supremecourtdocket.mt.gov/search/case?case=17611>
- In late March the District's engineers submitted a new discharge permit application utilizing SBR treatment technology to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). Prior to the December District Court ruling, the GGWSD Board had already decided to use an SBR treatment technology in lieu of the original "Level 2" treatment design. See the Summer 2014 newsletter on our website for more information on this decision. Because of this earlier decision to use an SBR the Board felt it would be better to apply for a discharge permit using the new technology rather than re-submitting the old permit application, as recommended by the District Court ruling. The permit

application is now in review at MDEQ and the District hopes to receive a “draft” permit mid-summer. Once the parameters of the permit are known, the District’s engineers can complete the design, and with a permit in hand later this year, bids for construction can commence.

District Welcomes New Director to the Board

At the May 6, 2015 Board meeting, the GGWSD Board of Directors appointed Ashley Kroon to fill the open Director’s seat which was vacated by the resignation of Steve Janes in February. Ashley grew up in Bozeman, and has been a resident of Gallatin Gateway since October 2012. Ashley recently completed her formal studies at MSU, earning her B.S. degree in Civil Engineering in May 2013, and in December 2014 completed her Masters degree in Environmental Engineering. She is currently working as a Research Scientist at the Western Transportation Institute at MSU, and has extensive proficiency in wetlands analysis, water and soil sample testing and other fieldwork, and has also completed course work in wastewater treatment process/design. “The sewer board is an excellent learning experience”, she stated, “and also an opportunity to provide our community with low-cost wastewater treatment services while improving the area’s quality of water, including drinking water wells and the Gallatin River.” Ashley’s term on the Board runs through November 2017. Welcome aboard Ashley!

Congratulations to the Four Corners County Water & Sewer District

The Four Corners County Water & Sewer District recently held a bond election to authorize borrowing \$23 million to purchase the private utility currently serving the people of Four Corners. The results were 495 in favor and 26 against – a solid result indicating that 95% of these voters favor public ownership of basic infrastructure.

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 those names to the list.

Your \$6.00/month Benefited Lot Charge invoice is enclosed. 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.

REMINDER: GGWSD monthly board meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 6:30 PM, in the Board Room of the Gallatin Gateway Fire Station, 320 Webb Street. 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.

