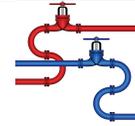


Gallatin Gateway Water & Sewer District

Serving Gallatin Gateway since 2009

Sewer Connections



Spring 2016

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

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Interlocal Agreement with Four Corners County Water & Sewer District Completed

An interlocal agreement between Four Corners Water and Sewer District (FCWSD) and Gallatin Gateway Water and Sewer District (GGWSD), for sharing of wastewater treatment services, was unanimously approved and signed by both District Boards in February 2016. The agreement delineates the responsibilities between GGWSD and FCWSD with respect to construction, ownership, operation and maintenance of the GGWSD wastewater collection system, the Elk Grove sewage treatment plant, and the force-main pipeline between Gallatin Gateway and the treatment plant. The agreement states that FCWSD will treat and dispose of Gallatin Gateway's wastewater up to the reserved capacity, estimated to be 27,000 gallons per day (average daily flow). In return, GGWSD will pay FCWSD a reserved capacity fee, representing Gallatin Gateway's proportionate share of the treatment capacity. GGWSD will also pay FCWSD a monthly usage charge, which will be based on actual wastewater flow from Gallatin Gateway, as measured by a flow meter at a to-be-determined location. GGWSD will maintain ownership and responsibility for its lift station and collection system around town, and we will invoice GGWSD customers directly for all wastewater services. GGWSD will not share in or pay costs associated with the Elk Grove system not utilized by Gallatin Gateway users. The interlocal agreement can be found on the District's website at www.gatewaywsd.com. "This interlocal agreement represents a great value for both the people of Four Corners and of Gateway," said GGWSD General Manager Matt Donnelly. "Four Corners ratepayers get the advantage of using treatment capacity that would otherwise be idle, and Gateway ratepayers get ready-built infrastructure with low risk and reasonable cost."

The District's engineers have completed the design and specs for the force main pipeline to be built between Gallatin Gateway and the Elk Grove sewage treatment plant. The pipeline is routed on the west side of Highway 191 to approximately Blackwood Road, where it will cross under the highway and travel to the sewage treatment plant. The design was submitted for approval to MDEQ in late March. The design and specs for the collection system (pipes in town) have not changed, and have already been approved by MDEQ. The engineers are also working with Montana Department of Transportation (MDOT) to meet all permit requirements along the highway.

The project's state and federal funding agencies have been informed of the District's decision to adopt a new preferred method of treatment and disposal of its community's wastewater, in light of current conditions. The agencies consider this a change in scope for the project, although the community needs, project objectives, funding package, and district boundaries remain substantially the same. In March the District was advised by the Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) that it concurs with the District's position that the new preferred solution still meets the intent of the legislative funding awarded to GGWSD in 2012, and approved the change in scope request for connection to FCWSD. Due to a change in scope, the agencies also require updates to documents such as the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) and the Environmental Assessment (EA). The update to the PER was completed in November 2015, and an addendum to the District's existing EA, which will meet all state and federal agency requirements, is currently underway. The District and its engineers hope to have all regulatory hurdles cleared in the next few months and are working diligently to have a construction bid package complete by late Spring. Once construction bids have been accepted, a construction timeline can be articulated.

In other news, the District learned in February 2016, that it has received a second grant award in the amount of \$190,000 from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, to assist in the design and construction of its wastewater system project. The District was awarded an initial grant of \$223,000 in March 2015. The grants are 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. GGWSD is pleased that in twice selecting GGWSD as one of the Montana recipient of this award, the community of Gallatin Gateway is recognized by Senator Tester's office as one that is working together to solve its wastewater problems and improve public health while protecting its natural resources. Likewise, the Board of the GGWSD extends its appreciation to Senator Tester for

recognizing and, more importantly, delivering tangible assistance to rural communities struggling to keep up with the federal regulatory burden.

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 distribution list.

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.

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 School, 100 Mill Street, Gallatin Gateway. 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 posted on the District's website, and can also be found on the Gallatin County Clerk and Recorder Documents Page.