

Wastewater System.

Information Update #15

30 April 2008

On 24 April 2008 the 3 districts within the Wastewater Planning area conducted a public meeting in Bigfork, the 5th since January 2005. The districts hosting this meeting were the Woods Bay Homesites Water & Sewer District, the Sheavers Creek Water & Sewer District, and the Greater Woods Bay Sewer District. This was a key meeting, as it marked the beginning of the funding process for this project. There were 66 people in attendance. The briefing is posted on the webpage.

Key to the funding process is the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which states in essence that the Bigfork Water and Sewer District (BWSD) and its Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) will accept effluent from the Greater Woods Bay Area and treat it. This was the start point for the public meeting and the remainder of the meeting discussed the Estimated times and costs associated with the Phase 1 implementation plan of the sewer project. Federal funding from the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) in the sum of \$240,000.00 will be used to conduct the Preliminary Design work of the Core System which is that piece necessary to transmit the effluent to Bigfork WWTF. The Phase 1 project consists of 4 sub-phases. Phase 1a is the Core main running roughly along HWY 35 from the vicinity of mile marker 26, north to the WWTF. Phase 1b will include a portion of Sheavers Creek W&S District, Phase 1c a portion of the Woods Bay Homesites W&S District, and Phase 1d a portion of the Greater Woods Bay Sewer District. Due to the restrictive nature of grants, it was deemed prudent by both our engineers and our bonding attorney to limit the ratio of '*grant to loan*' dollars in order to keep the cost as low as possible. Put another way, if the project cost per phase were far in excess of what the grant amount for that phase could be, then the remainder would have to be paid for by loans. Clearly, keeping the loan amount low is the prime financial concern for all the districts. Additionally, the phases of the project are being linked to the Montana State legislative cycle (2 years) so that the maximum flexibility in grant requests will be afforded the districts.

Exact numbers for the grant amounts to be given to each of the districts (all are applying for Treasure State Endowment Program grants (TSEP)) will not be determined until sometime in 2009. The deadline for the grant submissions is 2 May 2008. Additional grants and loan packages will be investigated as the amounts from TSEP are released. In light of this uncertainty, the numbers and cost presented at the public meeting are estimates. Once it is determined in hard

fact what the real grant sums will be, new figures for the loan portion of the Phase 1 project will be derived and examined by bonding counsel, and further public meetings will be held to present this data.

The procedure for the awarding of grants has become very competitive in recent years, with scoring criteria being highly competitive. To that end the 3 TSEP grants have been written by utilizing the subject matter expertise of Morrison Maierle Inc, (MMI) our engineering firm. Through legal counsel it was determined that the cost of this effort could be borne by the Bigfork Water and Sewer District (BWSO) if the BWSO would hire MMI to do the job. There were no funds, or no capability to generate the \$30,000 needed to accomplish this task from within the 3 districts, so the BWSO resolved to fund the effort, --one time. The determination of compensation for this pragmatic business decision will be detailed as the phases of the project are complete and customers come on line.

The investigation of Bylaws, Rules and Regulations as well as the formation of a Regional Wastewater Authority continues.

MISSION STATEMENT: The Greater Woods Bay Sewer Committee is developing, in conjunction with a qualified engineering firm, a cost effective and efficient wastewater treatment system. The system will be designed to protect the water quality of the surrounding aquifer, the waters of Flathead Lake, and the health and well-being of the people and property of the Greater Woods Bay area, from the first day of operation to well into the future.

From the community webpage for information on the Greater Woods Bay Wastewater Project,
www.yennepoint.org

Respectfully,
Paul J. Rana
GWBSD

montanar@aol.com

Community Representatives and District Board Members (BOD):

Sheavers Creek District	Bob Hand (BOD)	837-5253
Woods Bay District	Frank Brann	837-5653
Community Lane	vacant	
Shore Acres-Orchard Lane	Pat Smith (BOD)	837-6080
Yenne Point Road	Bob Seccombe	837-3514
Ridgewood	Brent Passwater	837-1361
White Cap Lane	Woody Nedom	837-2237
Sylvan Drive	Frank Unmack	837-3851
Yenne Point and Romain	Paul Rana (BOD)	837-1102
Hwy 35 South to Mauzey Ck	Tom Adolph	837-1005
Hwy 35 North to County Line	Dale Iverson (BOD)	837-6973

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