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Information for the public from the Dawson County Commissioners to address questions regarding the Proposed Creation of a West Glendive Metropolitan Sanitary Sewer District No. One. This information as well as other information can be found on the Dawson County Website at [www.dawsoncountymontana.com](http://www.dawsoncountymontana.com)

Q: Why are we creating a Metropolitan Sanitary Sewer District?

A: It is an administrative tool to address the concerns of existing sewer and lagoon Districts. We have 3 Districts. 31 M is a Rural Special Improvement District (RSID) covering the sewer collection system in Highland Park. 10M is a Rural Special Improvement District (RSID) covering the sewer collection system in Forest Park and the other areas of West Glendive that are west of the Yellowstone River. 10SLM is a Rural Special Improvement District (RSID) that is the Lagoon collection System that both 31M and 10M tie into. The intent of the new sewer district would be to combine the above districts into one district. The advantage of that creation would be to not split bills 3 ways (one for each district). In addition, the proposed district would provide the framework for construction and maintenance of improvements needed to collect and transport sewage from the West Glendive area for disposition and treatment in the new City of Glendive Wastewater Treatment Plant. The district would be responsible for payment of fees, rates and charges to the City of Glendive for treatment and disposal of the sewage from the district in the new Wastewater Treatment Plant. A description of the improvements, costs, rates and charges are set forth in the Resolution of Intention to Create Metropolitan Sanitary Sewer District No. One passed by the Dawson County Commissioners and on file in the office of the Dawson County Clerk and Recorder.

Q: Will our rates go up if we create a Metropolitan Sewer District?

A: The creation of the district itself will not increase the rates, however the Commission must address the non-compliance issue with the Department of Environmental Quality/Environmental Protection Agency first and foremost which will cause bills to increase, regardless whether the rates increase in districts 31M, 10M and 10SLM, or in the Metropolitan Sanitary Sewer District No. One as proposed.

Q: Why will our rates go up?

A: The current lagoon is not in compliance with EPA regulations. We have been working since 2009 to address the problems and all of the proposed solutions will require additional funding and improvements. Dawson County has applied for grants and low interest loans, some of which the County will receive. Some of the loans require us to increase the fees for sewage disposal in order to prove feasibility of paying the loans back.

Q: What will happen if we leave the system the way it is?

A: Allowing the system to remain the way it is not an option. Dawson County is operating under an order of compliance issued by the EPA that may levy a fee of up to \$10,000 a day if the County continues to proceed in non-compliance. The \$10,000 fee per day will remain until Dawson County comes into compliance.

Q: How much will our rates go up?

A: The exact amount at the current time is unknown. Although Dawson County has tried to estimate the cost the best it could, it is impossible to give an exact amount. Following public meetings in the past, Dawson County has opted to move forward with the connection to the new city treatment plant. We have agreed to pay 30.7% of the city's cost to build their treatment plant, which is the estimated portion of sewage from the West Glendive area. The engineers have estimated the costs to add a lift station and carry the sewer under the river to be \$2,900,000. We will not know the exact costs until the project is bid out. We will not go to bid until the treatment plant is under construction, but as we will share in the costs of that plant, we have to begin the financing procedure now. We anticipate the current rates to cover the current expenses for operation and maintenance of the collection system.

Pros to creating a metropolitan sewer district:

- Administration won't need to split bills 3 ways
- Will make the possibility of expanding the district easier
- Assessments can be made to 1 district rather than 3
- Still allows billing to be done through tax assessments rather than creating a monthly billing system
- When the lagoon problems are addressed, there will be a mechanism in place to cover the improvements and costs for collection of the sewer, the treatment of the sewer, the operation and maintenance all in fund.

Cons to creating a metropolitan sewer district:

- It is a change
- Limited to 20 year loans rather than 30 year loans per Montana Code

Estimated costs for the current plans to connect to the City of Glendive Wastewater Treatment Plant:

- Glendive Treatment Plant estimated cost \$15,000,000 West Glendive Portion is estimated at 30.7% which is \$4,605,000
- Estimated costs to connect to the Glendive Treatment Plant \$2,900,000
- Engineering Costs, \$390,474
- Interest on 20 year loans

Dawson County Commissioners