

# AMSTERDAM-CHURCHILL SEWER DISTRICT WASTEWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

## Planning and Evaluation

In July of 2009, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality issued an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) sighting the Amsterdam-Churchill County Sewer District's wastewater treatment facility out of compliance with state regulations. The AOC also set a timeline to bring the facility into compliance with state wastewater treatment regulations.

After four years of planning and evaluating wastewater treatment alternatives, the Amsterdam-Churchill County Sewer District (ACSD) Board has decided to move forward with a solution to comply with the Department of Environmental Quality's AOC. The ACSD Board has evaluated two primary options to repair the existing wastewater treatment facility, 1) construct a new lagoon treatment facility with spray irrigation disposal, and 2) convey wastewater to the Town of Manhattan's wastewater treatment facility. Both options have advantages and disadvantages. The ACSD board has decided the best alternative is to convey wastewater to the Town of Manhattan and has worked successfully with the Town of Manhattan to obtain estimated sewer rates equal to the cost of constructing a new wastewater treatment facility. All things considered, the board believes this option is in the best interest of the community and will meet the community's current and future development needs.

## Proposed System Improvements

The ACSD will construct a new force sewer main (pipeline) connecting the District with the Town of Manhattan's collection and wastewater treatment facility. The project will consist of installing a new pump station at the existing treatment facility and a pipeline placed in railroad and highway rights-of-way connecting to the Town of Manhattan's

collection system near Interstate 90. In addition to the pipeline, the existing lagoon treatment facility in Amsterdam will be reclaimed.

The ACSD has initiated the pipeline design and permitting process for the project. The AOC requires the District to have the new system operational by December 30, 2014.

## Inter-Local Agreement

The inter-local agreement is a mutually binding agreement between ACSD and the Town of Manhattan. This document defines the responsibilities and obligations for both the Town and the District. After a number of iterations of this document, the Town of Manhattan approved the agreement at its August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Town Council meeting.

## Project Funding & Bond Election

The ACSD successfully applied for and received grant funds from the Treasure State Endowment Program and DNRC Renewable Resource Grant and Loan program in the amount of \$850,000 to be used for the project. The remaining funds will be provided by the USDA-Rural Development Loan program.

On August 9<sup>th</sup> 2013, the Gallatin County Clerk and Recorders Office sent a bond election ballot to all property owners within the ACSD boundary. The bond election, if approved by ACSD users, authorizes the ACSD to sell and issue bonds for the construction of the wastewater system improvements in an amount not to exceed \$2,300,000.

The proposed bonds will be to fund the project will be in the form of Revenue Bonds. Revenue bonds

are payable from ACSD monthly sewer user rates. Therefore, there will be no increase to District's county taxes provided the District's monthly revenue sufficiently covers the obligations of the bonds. The bond election is required by the USDA-Rural Development loan program because the ACSD is a county sewer district not an incorporated city or town. The bond election will enable the county to levy a tax lien on a property in the event the sewer bill is not paid by the user.

### Projected User Rates

The projected monthly sewer user fee for a typical single family household is estimated at approximately \$68.00. This monthly user rate covers the required costs of re-paying the debt, operation and maintenance of the District's facilities, as well as paying for the proportionate treatment costs of the ASCD's wastewater at the Town of Manhattan's wastewater treatment facility.

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The ACSD currently has one open chair on the Board of Directors and is seeking volunteers. ACSD Board meetings are held on a quarterly basis (minimum). The Board's primary responsibilities are to establish and implement District policies, oversee operations, establish rates, and review financials.

Any interested parties please contact Jeff Dyksterhouse at (406)282-7234.

#### Current Board Members

Hank Dyksterhouse, President  
Harold Vander Molen, Board Member  
Dean Danhof, Board Member  
Shane Leum, Board Member  
\_\_\_\_\_, Board Member  
Jeff Dyksterhouse, Manager/Secretary

