

Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Dispersal Pucks Point Sanitary Sewer District



KABET 114902

Project Update

SEH Project Engineers

Colin Marcusen
Project Manager
320.229.4359

cmarcusen@sehinc.com

Sara Christenson
218.322.4513

schristenson@sehinc.com

Township Board

John Stegmeir
Township Chair
218.875.3304

johnstegmeir@yahoo.com

August 2015 | Project Update No. 1

Hello and welcome to the Pucks Point Wastewater Collection, Treatment and Dispersal Project Update. In this and upcoming issues, we will be updating you periodically on the status of this project.

Project Status

The project was previously bid as three separate projects – collection, pretreatment, and dispersal – in March, 2015. Though the contractor's bids came in lower than the previous bidding cycle, the total project costs were still above level considered affordable by the Township. The project was tabled at that time in order to wait for news on possible grant funding.

Funding Update

During the 2015 legislative session the Clean Water and Lands Legacy Amendment was passed. The Amendment included \$2 million in grant dollars to be used toward Voyageurs National Park clean water projects. The Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board then elected to allocate \$960,000 of these funds to the Puck's Point projects. This brings total grant contributions for the project to over \$3 million and lowers expected monthly rates to approximately \$92 per month, per residential equivalent. Using this rate, there will be approximately \$275,000 in contingency left over for unexpected issues in construction. These figures are based on the last bids and will change if actual project costs are higher or lower.

Schedule

Because bids were rejected during the last bidding cycle due to affordability reasons, the projects will likely need to be rebid. The following schedule takes into account time for rebidding.

- September 2015 – SEH will prepare rebid documents and the projects will be advertised and bid.
- October 2015 – The bids will be reviewed and the projects will be awarded to the successful bidders.
- Fall/Winter 2015/2016 – The application for applying for the allocated legacy funds will begin at this time. This is a lengthy process, which can take up to six months. SEH and the Township's attorneys will also prepare easement documents during this time, which will be mailed to you for signature.
- March 2016 – Contracts will be secured with successful bidders.
- May-July 2016 – Construction of pretreatment and dispersal systems will take place.
- September-November 2016 – Construction of collection system and completion of pretreatment and dispersal systems will be completed.

Easement Process

Much of the work for this project will be completed within road right-of-ways. However, there is some work, such as placing tanks and piping on your property for the sewer services, which will require easements to be granted by you, giving the contractor the right to do the work on your property. As noted above, SEH and the Township's attorney will work on writing the necessary easements this winter and they will be sent to you through the mail. We will be asking that the easements be signed and returned in order to not impede the construction progress.

Frequently Asked Questions (F.A.Q.s)

Q. What portion of my bill will be capital costs and what portion will be operation and maintenance costs?

A. Given the current financial analysis using the most recent bids, approximately \$49 of the monthly bill will be capital costs, which will be charged to each district member regardless of connection. The remaining \$43 of the bill are operation and maintenance costs and will be charged to those who choose to connect, for a total bill of approximately \$92. These costs are subject to change depending on final construction costs. Operation and maintenance costs during the first year will be a set rate per equivalent residential unit. In subsequent years, these costs will be based on actual, metered usage, as each pump will have a run-time meter that will be read monthly by the Township.

Q. Will my existing septic tank be removed as part of the project?

A. If a new tank is planned to be placed in the same location as your existing tank, then yes, the tank will be removed. If your tank is not planned to be removed, you will be responsible for proper abandonment or removal of the tank per County Ordinance.

Q. Will my sanitary sewer service be connected to the new tank as part of the project?

A. The service pipe between your house or cabin and the new tank is considered private and will be the responsibility of the Owner to install. However, there may be instances in which the contractor for the project will make the connection from your existing service to a new tank, if a new tank is placed in the same spot as your existing tank.

Q. What if I do not sign the easement document?

A. You, of course have the right to not sign the easement document. However, the easement will be required if you would like to be connected to the new system. If you are not connected, you will still be charged for the capital costs of the project on a monthly basis. You will not be charged for the operation and maintenance portion of the monthly bill until you are connected to the system. We want to remind you, however, that if you choose not to be connected to the system now, there will be a connection fee upon future connection. The fee is currently estimated at \$7,850 per equivalent residential unit, subject to change depending on construction costs.

Secondly, it should be noted that current County ordinance states that connection to the public sewer must be made at time of non-compliance or point of sale of a property, if the sanitary sewer is within 200 feet of the property line. Therefore, future connection to the public system will eventually be required by the County.

Frequently Asked Questions (F.A.Q.s), cont....

Q. How will individual usage be determined where more than one property's sewage flows to and is pumped out of the same tank?

A. There are four instances of this situation in the proposed project. In each case, a water meter will be installed at one of the properties to measure usage.

Q. How will electrical service be run to each pump/tank?

A. The electrical service will be connected to each tank/pump from individual residences to each tank by the contractor for the sewer project. The Contractor will need to have temporary access to the Owner's distribution panel. Electrical usage for the pump will show up on the user's electric bill and is estimated at \$1 to \$4 per month for a typical house.

For shared tanks, the electrical service will be run to the tank from one of the properties utilizing that tank. The electrical usage will then show up on the electric bill for that resident. The Township will read the hour meter for the pump each month and reimburse the party paying for electric usage. Electric usage charges will then be split appropriately and included on the monthly operation and maintenance bill from the Township.

Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc.
1200 25th Avenue South
P.O. Box 1717
St. Cloud, MN 56302-1717



Project Update

**Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Dispersal
Pucks Point Sanitary Sewer District**