

Water Quality

Department Overview

The Gallatin Local Water Quality District is a non-regulatory department of the County. The District was created by the County Commission by resolution.

The District mission is to protect, preserve and improve the quality of ground water and surface water within the District boundaries. The District is governed by a nine-member Board of Directors consisting of representatives from the communities of Bozeman, Belgrade, Manhattan and Gallatin County.

Funding comes from a \$6.60 fee on improved parcels within the District. This increased by \$0.60 in FY 2014 and is the first change in the fee since the District was created. The District also receives grants to support its activities.

Projects planned for FY 2014 include continued monitoring of the District's existing ground water monitoring wells, adding monitoring wells in the Big Sky, Churchill, Logan, and Belgrade areas, continued development of a ground water quality database, and starting a two year project to study cumulative impacts to ground water from wastewater disposal. The District also plans to pursue grant funds to assist with establishment of a surface water quality monitoring network, and working on improvements to Bozeman Creek.

Department Goals

- Provide public education related to water quality and quantity issues to the residents, taxpayers, businesses and visitors of the local water quality district.
- Maintain and expand a groundwater monitoring well network to evaluate and document changes in groundwater quality and quantity.
- Advocate for protection and improvement of water quality within the District.
- Collect, compile and disseminate water-resource information for the benefit of all citizens interested in water resources in the District.
- Obtain grants to assist with expanding our understanding local water resources.

Recent Accomplishments

- Conducted monthly monitoring of water levels in 52 wells in cooperation with the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology-Ground Water Characterization Program.
- Sampled 13 ground water and surface water sites for pharmaceutical compounds. Obtained two additional monitoring wells for the ground water monitoring network.
- Continued to assist the Greater Gallatin Watershed Council with establishment of a volunteer stream monitoring program.
- Completed a report on the occurrence of pharmaceuticals in ground water, surface water, and wastewater in Gallatin County, in cooperation with the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology.
- Distributed approximately 150 private well testing kits to homeowners, which include discounted laboratory costs, in cooperation with MSU Extension Water Quality.
- Provided assistance to private well owners on well testing, proper well care, and well disinfection.
- Completed a study to assess current wastewater disposal practices in Gallatin County.
- Increase Operating Reserve to 15% of Authorized Budget.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Water Quality

Department Budget

Object of Expenditure	Actual FY 2012	BUDGET FY 2013	Actual FY 2013	Request FY 2014	Preliminary FY 2014	BUDGET FY 2014
Personnel	\$ 229,116	\$ 243,585	\$ 232,331	\$ 218,260	\$ 221,591	\$ 223,334
Operations	57,032	163,326	78,552	130,752	130,752	131,858
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Outlay	-	5,750	4,483	2,500	2,500	2,500
Transfers Out	-	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 286,148	\$ 412,661	\$ 315,366	\$ 351,512	\$ 354,843	\$ 357,692

Budget by Fund Group

General Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Special Revenue Funds	286,148	412,661	315,366	351,512	354,843	357,692
Debt Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Project Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enterprise Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Internal Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trust & Agency Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 286,148	\$ 412,661	\$ 315,366	\$ 351,512	\$ 354,843	\$ 357,692

Funding Sources

Tax Revenues	\$ 207,154	\$ 215,384	\$ 208,922	\$ 209,856	\$ 209,856	\$ 295,136
Non-Tax Revenues	49,932	27,575	27,299	87,850	87,850	88,556
Cash Reappropriated	29,062	169,702	79,144	53,806	57,137	(26,000)
Total	\$ 286,148	\$ 412,661	\$ 315,366	\$ 351,512	\$ 354,843	\$ 357,692

Department Personnel

No. of Positions	FT/PT	Title	FTE 2012	FTE 2013	FTE 2014
1	Full-Time	LWQD Manager	1.00	1.00	1.00
2	Full-Time	Water Quality Specialist	2.00	2.00	2.00
1	Part-Time	Administrative Secretary	0.50	0.50	0.50
4.00		Total Program	3.50	3.50	3.50

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2014 Budget Highlights

Personnel

- The District employs a full-time Manager/Ground Water scientist, two full-time water-quality specialists and a half-time administrative assistant.
- Often hire MSU student interns to assist with field work and data entry into ground-water database.

Operations

- Funding for operations is used to cover costs to maintain the District office and cover costs for equipment and supplies to monitor ground-water and surface-water quality and quantity.
- A significant amount of operations funding is used for laboratory costs for water quality analysis.

Capital

- Computer \$2,500, Copier Reserve \$7,000

County Commission Goals/Department Response

The County Commission established a set of overarching goals for the County government. Listed below are the goals, followed by the methods by which the District is striving to fulfill those goals.

Align community needs with budgetary decisions

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Adhere to long-term plans

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Demonstrate exceptional Customer Service

- Available to the public to answer questions and assist with water quality issues.
- Office normally open over the lunch hour for convenient access to information & water testing kits.
- District staff strives to keep current on water quality rules and regulations, and new research on contaminants of concern in water to provide accurate and knowledgeable information to the public.

Serve as a Model for Excellence in Government

- Develop and follow a five-year strategic plan for District activities with Board oversight. This plan was updated in Fiscal-year 2011 to incorporate anticipated work in new areas of the District.
- Follow commonly accepted Standard Operating Procedures for collection of water quality and water quantity data and use Montana Certified laboratories for water quality analysis.

Improve communication within county government, other jurisdictions and our public

- Develop and distribute brochures and fact sheets on water quality topics of common interest.
- Maintain/update website for easy access to information & documents (www.gallatin.mt.gov/glwqd).
- Input all ground water monitoring data into the Montana Ground Water Information Center for easy access by the public at <http://mbmggwic.mtech.edu>.
- Provide presentations to the public on water quality topics of interest, upon request.

Be an Employer of Choice and improve employee retention

- Continue staff training and performance based evaluations.

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Workload Indicators / Performance Measures

Workload Indicators		Actual	Actual	Actual	Projected
Indicator		FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
1.	Monthly monitoring of ground water levels (52 wells)	624	NA		
2.	Monitoring of ground water levels 8 times/year (54 wells)	NA	432		
3.	Collection of ground water quality samples from wells	20	75		
4.	Collection of ground water samples for pharmaceutical analysis	6	4		
5.	Collection of surface water samples for pharmaceutical analysis	7	0		
6.	Collection of wastewater samples for pharmaceutical analysis	0	0		
7.	Distribution of water test kits to private well owners	150	175		
8.	Provide assistance to owners of private wells and septic	150	150		

Performance Measures		Actual	Actual	Actual	Projected
Measure		FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
1.	Measure water levels in District monitoring well network	100%	100%		
2.	Implementation of water quality database	85%	95%		
3.	Evaluate establishment of surface water monitoring network	90%	100%		
4.	Collect 50 volatile organic compound samples-monitor wells	NA	NA		

Comments

The Gallatin Local Water Quality District works with the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Gallatin Conservation District, Gallatin Association of Agricultural Irrigators, Greater Gallatin Watershed Council, and others to coordinate activities, share information, and assure we are not duplicating efforts.