

## Water Quality

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### 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 in 1997. The District mission is to protect, preserve and improve the quality of groundwater 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 2015 include continued monitoring of the District's existing groundwater monitoring wells, and both groundwater and surface water sites being monitored through a cooperative agreement with the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG) Groundwater Investigation Program (GWIP). The District will seek opportunities to expand the groundwater monitoring well network, continue to maintain a groundwater quality database, and develop a long-term groundwater monitoring plan to evaluate and document trends in groundwater quality. The District plans to pursue grant funds to further understand water quality conditions in Bozeman Creek related to nutrients and pathogens. The District anticipates working with community partners at the Story Mill Park site to conduct monitoring for future wetland and stream restoration projects along the East Gallatin River and Bozeman Creek. The District will continue to provide technical and programmatic support for the Gallatin Stream Team, a citizen-scientist program for stream monitoring in cooperation with Greater Gallatin Watershed Council.

### Department Goals

- Provide 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 of local water resources.

### Recent Accomplishments

- Conducted monthly monitoring of over 100 groundwater and surface water sites in cooperation with the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology Groundwater Assessment Program and Groundwater Investigation Program.
- Established a groundwater monitoring site in the Big Sky area (Meadow Village).
- Established 12 long-term urban stream monitoring stations in Bozeman.
- Completed a report on the cumulative impacts of onsite wastewater treatment systems in high density development areas in the Gallatin Valley.
- Continue to partner with the Greater Gallatin Watershed Council on the citizen-scientist volunteer stream monitoring program-Gallatin Stream Team.
- Completed a project to screen for pharmaceuticals in groundwater, surface water, and wastewater in the Gallatin Valley, in cooperation with the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology.
- Distributed over 250 private well testing kits to homeowners, which include discounted laboratory costs, in cooperation with MSU Extension Water Quality.
- Conducted homeowner education workshops attended by over 100 private well owners on well testing, proper well and septic maintenance, well disinfection and proper lawn fertilization.
- Completed a study to assess current wastewater disposal practices in Gallatin County.

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Department Budget

Object of Expenditure	Actual FY 2013	Final FY 2014	Actual FY 2014	Request FY 2015	Preliminary FY 2015	Final FY 2015
Personnel	\$ 232,331	\$ 223,334	\$ 170,247	\$ 187,057	\$ 193,780	\$ 194,181
Operations	78,552	131,858	97,782	131,111	124,388	151,487
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Outlay	4,483	2,500	1,140	81,085	81,085	28,960
Transfers Out	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 315,366</b>	<b>\$ 357,692</b>	<b>\$ 269,169</b>	<b>\$ 399,253</b>	<b>\$ 399,253</b>	<b>\$ 374,628</b>

**Budget by Fund Group**

General Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Special Revenue Funds	315,366	357,692	269,169	399,253	399,253	373,128
Debt Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Project Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enterprise Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Internal Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	1,500
Trust & Agency Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 315,366</b>	<b>\$ 357,692</b>	<b>\$ 269,169</b>	<b>\$ 399,253</b>	<b>\$ 399,253</b>	<b>\$ 374,628</b>

**Funding Sources**

Tax Revenues	\$ 208,922	\$ 295,136	\$ 242,012	\$ 232,364	\$ 232,364	\$ 227,834
Non-Tax Revenues	27,299	88,556	66,417	54,000	54,000	54,000
Cash Reappropriated	79,144	(26,000)	(39,260)	112,889	112,889	92,794
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 315,365</b>	<b>\$ 357,692</b>	<b>\$ 269,169</b>	<b>\$ 399,253</b>	<b>\$ 399,253</b>	<b>\$ 374,628</b>

Department Personnel

No. of Positions	FT/PT	Title	FTE 2013	FTE 2014	FTE 2015
1	Full-Time	LWQD Manager	1.00	1.00	1.00
2	Full-Time	Water Quality Specialist	2.00	2.00	1.50
1	Part-Time	Administrative Assistant	0.50	0.50	0.50
4.00		Total Program	3.50	3.50	3.00

## Water Quality

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### 2015 Budget Highlights

#### Personnel

- Includes money to contract with a temp agency to cover a vacancy left by a long term medical leave, if necessary

#### Operations

- Funding is used to cover costs to maintain the District office and equipment and supplies to monitor groundwater and surface water, including laboratory costs for water quality analysis

#### Capital

- Computer \$2,800, Copier Reserve \$1,500, Capital Reserve \$24,660

### 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

- Conduct monitoring to evaluate water quality in areas of concern and within budgetary limitations.

#### Adhere to long-term plans

- Follow the recently updated District 5-year strategic plan (FY2015-2019) with Board oversight.

#### Demonstrate exceptional Customer Service

- Available to the public to answer questions and assist with water quality issues.
- Office typically 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

- Follow annual work plans for prioritized activities with Board oversight based on the strategic plan.
- Follow commonly accepted Standard Operating Procedures for collection of water quality and water quantity data and use Montana Certified laboratories for water quality analysis.
- Complete grant contracts on time and within budget.

#### 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](http://www.gallatin.mt.gov/glwqd)).
- Input 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.
- Conduct performance based evaluations in a timely manner.

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Workload Indicators / Performance Measures

<b>Workload Indicators</b>		<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Projected</b>
<b>Indicator</b>		<b>FY 2012</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>	<b>FY 2015</b>
1.	Monthly monitoring of ground water & surface water sites (129 sites)	1000	1000	1000	1200
2.	Collection of ground water quality samples from wells	35	20	209	10
3.	Distribution of water test kits to private well owners	240	250	300	300
4.	Provide assistance to owners of private wells and septics	175	150	175	175
5.	Collection of water quality samples from streams	NA	18	78	10

<b>Performance Measures</b>		<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Projected</b>
<b>Measure</b>		<b>FY 2012</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>	<b>FY 2015</b>
1.	Measure water levels in District monitoring well network	100%	100%	100%	100%
2.	Maintain water quality database	95%	90%	90%	95%
3.	Establish, maintain and expand surface water monitoring stations	90%	95%	95%	90%
4.	Conduct two private well owner education workshops	NA	NA	100%	100%
5.	Distribute a minimum of 150 private well test kits	90%	95%	100%	100%

**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, Greater Gallatin Watershed Council, Montana State University Extension-Water Quality, Gallatin Association of Agricultural Irrigators and others to coordinate activities, share information, and ensure we are not duplicating efforts.