

Water Quality

Department Overview

The Gallatin Local Water Quality District is a non-regulatory department created by the County Commission in 1997. The District mission is to protect, preserve, and improve the quality of groundwater and surface water within the District boundary. The District is governed by a nine-member Board of Directors comprised of city representatives from Belgrade, Bozeman, and Manhattan; a Gallatin County Commissioner; a Gallatin City-County Board of Health member; and a Gallatin Conservation District Supervisor. Three additional At-Large Representatives are appointed by the municipalities. Funding comes from a \$6.60 fee on improved parcels within the District. The District pursues grants wherever possible to conduct research and monitoring projects.

Two monitoring networks are the foundation of the District's program for understanding trends in water quality and availability. The groundwater network consists of 64 monitoring wells and the surface water network currently has 16 established monitoring stations. Monitoring activities are conducted per a Board-approved long-term groundwater monitoring plan and a surface water quality assurance program plan.

Groundwater nutrient monitoring in the Big Sky Meadow Village is on-going. Funding from a Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Watershed Management Grant will allow the District to develop a watershed health index, install continuous water level measuring instrumentation and outreach signage at surface water monitoring stations, and work with the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology to incorporate surface water level and water quality data to their Surface Water Assessment and Monitoring Program database in Fiscal Year 2020.

The District anticipates seeking funding to investigate sources of increasing nitrate in groundwater for public water supplies in the District. Ongoing efforts include maintaining the groundwater database, website, and interactive water quality mapper, distributing Well Educated test kits to homeowners, conducting Well Awareness Courses, and participating in education/outreach activities for youth and adults.

Department Goals

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

Recent Accomplishments

- Implemented a groundwater nutrient monitoring project in the Big Sky Meadow Village.
- Conducted water quality sampling for the groundwater and surface water monitoring networks.
- Conducted quarterly water level monitoring (and monthly monitoring on a subset) of groundwater network wells.
- Instrumented surface water monitoring stations with continuous water level measuring equipment.
- Trained 15 Gallatin Stream Teams volunteers in water quality monitoring activities.
- Distributed 200+ private well testing kits to homeowners through the Well Educated Program.
- Monitored several Bozeman urban streams for fecal contamination using a novel detection method.
- Developed an online interactive water quality map for the public in coordination with County GIS Dept.
- Conducted water quality education activity for 1000+ youth at the Gallatin Valley Farm Fair.
- Established Montana's first CrowdHydrology site on Bridger Creek in cooperation with the USGS.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Water Quality

Department Budget

Object of Expenditure	Actual FY 2018	Final FY 2019	Actual FY 2019	Start Up FY 2020	Request FY 2020	Preliminary FY 2020	Final FY 2020
Personnel	\$ 210,691	\$ 227,358	\$ 223,468	\$ 238,554	\$ 238,554	\$ 238,554	\$ -
Operations	63,224	85,976	65,963	84,976	93,226	87,726	-
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Outlay	-	239,200	50,000	220,853	218,103	218,103	-
Transfers Out	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 273,915	\$ 552,534	\$ 339,431	\$ 544,383	\$ 549,883	\$ 544,383	\$ -

Budget by Fund Group

General Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Special Revenue Funds	272,840	547,034	338,356	538,883	544,383	538,883	-
Debt Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Project Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enterprise Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Internal Service Funds	1,075	5,500	1,075	5,500	5,500	5,500	-
Trust & Agency Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 273,915	\$ 552,534	\$ 339,431	\$ 544,383	\$ 549,883	\$ 544,383	\$ -

Funding Sources

Tax Revenues	\$ 258,794	\$ 275,716	\$ 267,445	\$ 275,716	\$ 275,716	\$ 275,658	\$ -
Non-Tax Revenues	17,177	1,100	1,089	1,100	6,860	6,860	-
Cash Reappropriated	(2,056)	275,718	70,897	267,567	267,307	261,865	-
Total	\$ 273,915	\$ 552,534	\$ 339,431	\$ 544,383	\$ 549,883	\$ 544,383	\$ -

Department Personnel

No. of Positions	FT/PT	Title	FTE 2018	FTE 2019	FTE 2020
1	Full-Time	District Manager	1.00	1.00	1.00
1	Full-Time	Water Quality Specialist – Hydrogeologist	1.00	1.00	1.00
1	Full-Time	Water Quality Technician Specialist	1.00	1.00	1.00
0	Part-Time	Administrative Assistant	0.00	0.00	0.00
3		Total Program	3.00	3.00	3.00