22 September 2019

My comments for the Phase 1 sewer proposal:

1. I am not opposed to a sewer system for the business areas.
2. I am opposed to making it mandatory for residences in Phase 1.
3. There must be an equitable way to address residences in Phase 1.
4. I am a single, elderly – 73 year old woman living in a 500 sq ft house.
5. I cannot afford more than $50 total (usage and engineering/development debt) per month and would be forced to move, to sell my first owned home, if it were more; I have no idea where I'd go for affordable housing, no family to help, just me.........(and my canine kid).

Comment details:
I believe there is a great deal of misinformation and confusion which may be caused by misunderstanding technical and engineering details, and the cost analysis. I know the bottom line for me is how the total cost will affect monthly billing, both total cost per month and ultimate debt repayment over how many years.

At the meetings and via continued articles in the Pathfinder, putting technical and engineering terminology into language that most of us can understand may help defray much of the confusion. After several phone calls and email exchanges this last Friday I have a slightly better understanding of the development process.

I know I should have been going to earlier meetings. I did attend last Thursday's in hopes of getting one simple answer: How much will it cost me each month, my total monthly cost? But after hearing all the highly technical and confusing terminology I left before the meeting ended.

I do need to know actual total monthly cost, including usage and construction/engineering debt repayment fee. I know what I can and cannot afford. More than a certain amount and I'd have to sell my home, the first home I've owned. I'm 73 and my work barely supplies adequate income. I understand there may be organizations and entities than can help people like me, but I'd rather not go that route, would rather cover expenses on my own.

I do believe we eventually need a sewer system, especially the "downtown" businesses. But I also firmly believe implementation must be equitable for residential users who have far fewer assets and low or fixed income.

Most equitable and MAYBE affordable for me would be factoring my usage based on the amount of water I use, which is a quantity already known by the water district.

Thank you...

F. Carleen Gonder
October 24, 2019

Pat M. Goodover II
President
Seeley Lake Sewer District
PO Box 403
Seeley Lake, MT 59868

RE: Completeness Letter - MGWPCS Permit Application
Seeley Lake Sewer District Water Resource and Recovery Facility
Permit MTX000234

Dear Mr. Goodover:

On October 04, 2019, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) received an application from Seeley Lake Sewer District to renew their existing Montana Ground Water Pollution Control System (MGWPCS) permit. The MGWPCS application is complete. Upon assignment, the permit writer will contact you if questions arise during the drafting of the permit.

Until such time as DEQ issues your facility a new permit; effluent limits, monitoring requirements, and other permit conditions defined in your current permit remain unchanged and are legally binding. If you have any questions regarding the permit renewal process, please feel free to contact me anytime at (406) 444-6752.

Sincerely,

Chris Boe
Ground Water Discharge Permits Program
Water Protection Bureau

c: Felicity Derry
Secretary
Seeley Lake Sewer District
PO Box 403
Seeley Lake, MT 59868

File