

WATER QUALITY

Department Overview

The Gallatin Local Water Quality District is a non-regulatory department of Gallatin 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 \$6.00 fee on improved parcels within the District. The District also receives grants to support its activities. The District fee has not been increased since it was established in 1997.

Projects planned for FY 2012 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.

PUBLIC HEALTH

WATER QUALITY

Department Budget

Object of Expenditure	Actual FY 2010	Final FY 2011	Actual FY 2011	Request FY 2012	Preliminary FY 2012	Final FY 2012
Personnel	\$ 314,384	\$ 233,867	\$ 219,390	\$ 235,290	\$ 235,142	\$ 235,049
Operations	75,852	108,072	100,033	111,308	111,305	111,305
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	2,800	2,800	2,800
Transfers Out	-	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 390,236	\$ 341,939	\$ 319,423	\$ 349,398	\$ 349,247	\$ 349,154

Budget by Fund Group

General Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Special Revenue Funds	390,236	341,939	319,423	349,398	349,247	349,154
Debt Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Project Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enterprise Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Internal Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trust & Agency Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 390,236	\$ 341,939	\$ 319,423	\$ 349,398	\$ 349,247	\$ 349,154

Funding Sources

Tax Revenues	\$ 186,911	\$ 190,726	\$ 179,282	\$ 190,726	\$ 208,991	\$ 213,561
Non-Tax Revenues	157,184	196,480	117,888	120,000	50,436	50,436
Cash Reappropriated	46,141	(45,267)	22,253	38,672	89,820	85,157
Total	\$ 390,236	\$ 341,939	\$ 319,423	\$ 349,398	\$ 349,247	\$ 349,154

Department Personnel

No. of Positions	FT/PT	Title	FTE
1	Full-Time	LWQD Manager	1
2	Full-Time	Water Quality Specialist	2
1	Part-Time	Administrative Secretary	.50
4.00		Total Program	3.50

WATER QUALITY

2012 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 the District also hires student interns from Montana State University to assist with field work and data entry into the District 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 the operations funding is used to cover laboratory costs for water quality analysis.

Capital

The only anticipated capital expenditure for fiscal-year 2012 is funding to replace two of the District's older computers.

County Commission Goals/Department Response

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

Exceptional Customer Service

- The District strives to be available to the public by phone or in person to answer questions regarding water quality, and assist with water quality issues.
- The District office is normally open over the lunch hour to make it easier for the public to obtain information and pick up water testing kits.
- District staff strive to keep up with current water quality rules and regulations, and new research on contaminants of concern in water, to provide accurate and knowledgeable information to the public.

Be Model for Excellence in Government

- Develop and follow a five-year strategic plan for District activities in 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.
- Use Montana Certified laboratories for water quality analysis.

Improve Communications

- Develop and distribute brochures and fact sheets on water quality topics of common interest.
- Maintain/update a Website for easy access to information and documents at 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://mbmgqwic.mtech.edu>.
- Provide presentations to the public, homeowners associations, and other organizations on water quality topics of interest, upon request.

To be the Employer of Choice

- Continue staff training.
- Performance based evaluations.

PUBLIC HEALTH

WATER QUALITY

WORKLOAD INDICATORS / PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Workload Indicators		Actual	Actual	Actual	Projected
Indicator		FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
1.	Monthly monitoring of ground water levels (52 wells)	624	624	624	NA
2.	monitoring of ground water levels 8 times/year (54 wells)	NA	NA	NA	432
3.	Collection of ground water quality samples from wells	20	75	20	75
4.	Collection of ground water samples for pharmaceutical analysis	59	55	6	4
5.	Collection of surface water samples for pharmaceutical analysis	35	35	7	0
6.	Collection of wastewater samples for pharmaceutical analysis	44	44	0	0
7.	Distribution of water test kits to private well owners	150	140	150	175
8.	Provide assistance to owners of private wells and septic	100	100	150	150

Performance Measures		Actual	Actual	Actual	Projected
Measure		FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
1.	Measure water levels in District monitoring well network	100%	100%	100%	100%
2.	Implementation of water quality database	50%	75%	85%	95%
3.	Evaluate establishment of surface water monitoring network	10%	50%	90%	100%
4.	Collect 50 volatile organic compound samples-monitor wells		90%	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.