Water & Environmental TECHNOLOGIES

SepticNET

Seeley Lake Sewer District Missoula County

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Questions?

There are many factors outside of scientific data and engineering design that determine the ultimate success of a project. Understanding what is driving change, who the stakeholders are, valuing all opinions, and maintaining good communication are equally as important. We want to start out by getting a better understanding of these concepts.

DRIVERS	What are the main drivers for upgrading the sewer system? What regulatory pressure/agencies are forcing the Town to upgrade? Are groundwater concerns limiting economic growth? If so, how? Is there concern over the health of the Lake?
STAKEHOLDERS	What Local, State, and/or Federal agencies are involved in decision making? How do residents get educated and make decisions on proposed strategies/projects?
VIEWS	What are the general stances taken on sewer improvements locally? What were the roadblocks (other than cost) behind not moving forward with previously proposed design?
EXPERIENCE	What can WET/SepticNet do to improve and maintain a healthy and constructive relationship with residents, regulatory agencies, and the Sewer District throughout this project?

WE WORK FOR YOU!

Project Approach

WET proposes a 3-Phase approach to resolving Seeley Lake's wastewater issues. We commit to working side-by-side with the Sewer District throughout this process to develop a practical solution that is both economical and appropriate.

Phase I will focus on data collection and the review of existing data. This information will be used to focus sewer upgrades on the locations that need them; to prioritize which areas should be upgraded first; and to determine what treatment alternatives are most appropriate and cost effective.	
PHASE I DATA COLLECTION	**Task 1: Establish a Groundwater Monitoring Network and Collect Groundwater Data (In Progress).** **Task 2: Review the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) and Other Existing Data.** **Task 3: Meet With Regulatory Agencies and Seeley Lake Stakeholders to Discuss New Approach.** **Task 4: Define Data Gaps and Propose Additional Activities (As Needed).**

Project Approach

Phase II will use the gathered data to identify which areas would benefit the most from sewer upgrades. This Phase will also rank sewer alternatives based on the gathered data and the location of prioritized areas. WET and SepticNet will present this information to stakeholders including the Sewer District, residents, and regulatory agencies to get feedback on the most appropriate path forward.	
PHASE II PRELIMINARY DESIGN	Task 5: Identify Priority Areas Suited for On-site and/or Centralized Waste Collection Systems. Task 6: Identify and Rank Technologies for Identified Priority Areas. Task 7: Meet with Regulatory Agencies and Seeley Lake Stakeholders to Update on Project Approach. Task 8: Identify Funding Sources and Assist in Grant Applications for Preliminary Design.

Project Approach

Phase III will focus on engineering design, permitting, and construction management for the system installation. SepticNet/WET will provide an Engineer of Record as appropriate to oversee construction and to communicate with stakeholders throughout construction on progress, schedule and budget.	
PHASE III SYSTEM DESIGN/ CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT	**Task 9: Identify Funding Sources and Assist in Grant Application for Design and Construction.** **Task 10: Prepare Final Design Plans and Construction Permitting.** **Task 11: Prepare Construction Bid Documents and Project Bidding.** **Task 12: Construction Oversight/Records Drawings.**

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Project Funding

WET will assist Seeley Lake Sewer District in identifying and applying for local, state and federal grants and low interest loans to fund the project. WET has worked with clients to secure funding from the following entities:

Montana Coal Endowment Program (MCEP) – Formerly TSEP	Provides Local Governments in Local Public Facility Improvement Projects Including Wastewater Treatment and Sanitary Sewer System Improvements. Maximum Grant Award - $500,000 - $750,000 depending on user rates.
DNRC – Renewal Resource Grant and Loan Program (RRGL)	Project that Conserve, Manage, Develop, or Preserve Montana's Renewable Resources - $125,000 Maximum Grant, loans also available.
Federal Water Resources Development Act – (WRDA)	Provides Investment for Civil Works Projects Including Critical Infrastructure Essential to Economic Growth and Environmental Infrastructure Projects. Grant Award Varies Based on Project Needs.
USDA Rural Development (RD) – Rural Utility Services Water and Environmental Programs	Provides Rural Communities Technical Assistance and Financing Necessary to Develop Drinking Water and Sanitary Waste Disposal Systems. There are Multiple Grant and Loan Programs Awarding Between $3,500/Household and $200,000, loans also available.

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Project Funding

DNRC Reclamation and Development Grant Program (RDGP)	Funds projects that address impacts from non-renewable resource extraction on public resources and that meet other crucial state needs to protect Montana's Environment. Planning Grants - $50,000, Project Grants - $300,000.
DNRC American Rescue Plan	Provides State and Local Aid to Make Necessary Investments in Centralized Wastewater Treatment Infrastructure and Ground water/Surface Water Restoration. Maximum Grant Award - $2,000,000.
Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP)	Provides Professional Planning Assistance to Communities Across Montana in Support of Sound Land Use and Development Decisions, Economic Revitalization, and Overall Community Resilience. Planning level grants - up to 20 hours of professional assistance.

Preliminary Engineering Report (PER)
Proposed Funding:

TSEP Grant:	$500,000
RRGL Grant:	$125,000
WRDA Grant:	$660,000
RD Grant:	$1,415,250
RD Loan:	$3,578,250

WET will reach out to these Entities to see if this funding is still available for the project.