



Kegonsa Sanitary District

2240 US Highway 51
P.O. Box 486
Stoughton, WI 53589

(608)873-0230 or 800-474-0230
Sewer Emergency (608)843-6026
info@KegonsaSanitaryDistrict.com

Message From The Commission—December 2024

Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday
8:00 a.m. to noon

Service Operators are on Duty

Monday-Friday
7:00 a.m.– 3:00 p.m.

Commissioners

Mike Sherry, President
Dan Hillery, Secretary
Mike Petersen, Treasurer

Staff

Brian Shotliff, Ken Anderson,
Mark Klein, and Cindy Lehr

- The Commission's regular monthly meeting is generally held the first **Wednesday** of each month at 2:00 p.m. Agendas are posted at Dunn Town Hall (website too), Quick Stop, and the Sanitary District Office.
- Please send your sewer user charge payments directly to the Sanitary District office to be processed. The address to send your payments to is: PO Box 486, Stoughton, WI 53589. There is also a **drop box** located in the garage service entrance door.
- To our customers who winter in the warmer weather, please contact Cindy in the office and let her know your temporary address. We are finding the postal service's "forwarding" is not the most reliable and many customers never receive their quarterly invoices. We can email your invoice to you so you receive it in a timely fashion and offer auto-pay as an option too.
- For those of you who **share grinder pumps**, we believe that \$18 per home, per year is accurate for the power cost to run the grinder pump(s). If you share a grinder pump with your neighbor and the electricity to run the grinder pump comes from their home, you should be paying your neighbor your share of the electricity to run the grinder pump. It is your job to be a good neighbor.

We're on the Web!

The District has a link on the Town of Dunn's website! The Town's web address is:
<https://www.townofdunnwi.gov/sanitary-sewer-districts>

Once there you will find our contact information, sign-up form for automatic billing, link to our latest Newsletter, and the monthly agenda.



Like us on Face Book!

We will have tips and reminders for you to keep the sewer system operating at its best and save us all costs in repairs.



What Should You Put In The Toilet?

That's simple...

Piddle, Poop, and Paper!

and we mean toilet paper—that's it, nothing else.



Please remember, toilets are not trash cans! We remind you of this every newsletter, but we can't stress enough how important it is not to flush anything but human waste and toilet paper down the toilet. Our grinder pump manufacturer has the following guidelines for items that **should not** be introduced into the sewer, either directly or through a kitchen waste disposal unit:

- Personal/cleaning wipes and sponges
- Diapers, socks, rags, or cloth
- Sanitary napkins or tampons and tampon applicators
- Latex/vinyl items—condoms
- Batteries, Glass, Metal
- Syringes, Cigarette butts, Dental Floss, Cotton Swabs
- Plastic items (toys, utensils, etc.), disposable toothbrushes
- Seafood shells, aquarium gravel, kitty Litter - Collect animal waste and dispose of it in your garbage
- Collect grease and fats in a heat-resistant container, **cool**, and dispose of it in your garbage
- Paint—not rinsing a paintbrush, but half a gallon of left over paint



If you use a cleaning service, please make them aware that their cleaning supplies should be put in the trash, not flushed down the toilet! **If we find negligence on the part of the homeowner for the grinder pump failing, the homeowner will be charged for the repairs!** This would include the cost to pump out the basin, the parts that need to be replaced on the pump, and our service operator's labor.

From a recent grinder pump failure. A mop head and floor scrubber pad were found inside the pump.

2025 Budget Approved

On October 29, 2024, we met and passed the District's 2025 budget. All expense items were reviewed and we discussed upcoming costs with the US HWY 51 improvement project. (See page 2) Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District rates continue to increase by approximately 9% each year. After much discussion, the decision was made to increase the RUE from \$49 to \$55 to increase the District's Depreciation/Emergency/Reserve account to pay for upcoming costs associated with the highway improvement project. The District continues to budget for the replacement of grinder pumps each year. The District owns and maintains 369 grinder pumps with the majority of them being at least fifteen years old. We thank our staff for doing the excellent job they do to keep costs down for you.

2024 Maintenance/Replacement Projects

We continue to have our service operator, Brian, complete our annual lift station pump maintenance. The District is under contract to replace electrical components at all of the Pump Station panels. In 2024, Pump Station D was completed. The District is still waiting for parts/labor from our vendor to complete Pump Station A, Pump Station B, Pump Station C, and the Main Station. In 2024, there was one new home construction with a basin install, two teardown/rebuild basin relocates, and one additional basin relocate. A total of four new basins installed this past year. The generator installation at Pump Station C is now complete and operational! Grinder pump meter readings and ARI valve inspections were also completed. There is a lot of preventative maintenance going on, and this is reducing our after hour alarms. This is also reducing the District's labor costs by not having to pay overtime!



What's Next with the US Highway 51 Improvement Project?

In the fall of 2023 the District reconstructed approximately 700 LF of forcemain for the upcoming roundabout construction. In 2024, the District abandoned three manholes and forcemain, and relocated a gravity lateral as part of the roundabout project. The District's share of the roundabout project was approximately \$53,000. This cost was paid for out of our Depreciation/Emergency/Reserve account.

Now that the roundabout is complete, this is what we know about what is next in the US Highway 51 improvement project.

US 51 Reconstruction (Tower Rd to Exchange Street): There is a section of forcemain between Tower Rd and Exchange Street that will need to be reconstructed. This section is approximately 2,500 LF and will need to be relocated by the fall of 2025. This phase of the project is approximately 95% compensable (95% being paid by the state).

US 51 Reconstruction (Exchange St to Larson Beach Rd): The District will need to relocate forcemain that runs under the Yahara River to accommodate a new/expanded vehicular and pedestrian bridge being constructed over the Yahara River. A contract will be signed with the WisDOT to do this work. Permits for this work will be obtained by WisDOT and will be combined with the Town of Dunn #3 Sanitary District. One shared trench will be open cut across the river. Both Sanitary District's need to relocate pipe and and abandon (remove) existing pipe. The project includes approximately 800 LF of KSD forcemain relocated under and just South of the river. This phase of the project is scheduled for construction in the fall of 2026 and is approximately 60% compensable.

US 51 Reconstruction (Roby Rd to County B/County AB): There are three intersections where KSD forcemain will need to be relocated or re-sleeved as described below:

1. Halverson Road: Intersection improvements include turn lanes. KSD forcemain will need to be reconstructed under the highway. This section serves one resident.
2. Bayview – Pump Station D: Road improvements include widening the road to accommodate turn lanes and regrading the ditch – KSD forcemain will be too shallow. KSD forcemain will need to be reconstructed under the highway. This section serves all of the trailer park.
3. Schneider Dr: Intersection improvements include turn lanes. KSD forcemain will need to be reconstructed under the highway. This section serves Kegonsa Research Campus and about twelve homes.

This phase of the project is scheduled for 2027 and is not compensable. KSD will pay 100% of the forcemain relocation required for this project.

Your GP Alarm is on - Now what?

The alarm is sounding and the red light is on, now what do you do? First, **stop using water**—no dishwasher, no loads of laundry, no water equipment cycling, no showers, etc. If you share a grinder pump with your neighbor alert them to the alarm and to stop using water as well. Call the service technician on-call after work hours at 608-843-6026 and report the alarm. If the alarm occurs during the normal work day, you can call the office at 608-873-0230. Do not use water until our technicians says the pump is functioning. You can silence the alarm by pressing the button on the bottom of the control box. The red light on the box will tell you or your neighbors that something is wrong with the pump or electric service to it. You run the risk of sewage backing up in your basement if you continue to use water-so don't until you know the pump is functioning!



Automatic Bill Payment Program

We are pleased to be able to offer you this convenient way to pay your quarterly sewer user charges. Currently, 277 customers are using the program. If you choose to sign up, this service will start with the March 1, 2025 billing. There are no charges for this service, but just like when you pay with a check, any transfers refused because of insufficient funds or a closed account will incur a service charge of \$25. Also, we have the ability to **email** invoices to you! Just let Cindy know and she will get you set up to receive your invoices via email. To help save on billing costs, it is OK to **prepay** your sewer user charge if you would like. This is available to both automatic bill payment customers and mail-in customers. Contact Cindy in the office if you have questions. An enrollment form is available on our link on the Town's website.

Kegonsa Sanitary District Quick Facts

KSD System:

Sewer Mains: 20.11 Miles

Sewer Manholes: 127

Grinder Pumps: 369

Pumping Stations: Four Lift Stations and the Main Pumping Station

Customers:

Residential-559

Commercial-18

The user charge delinquency rate for 2024 was approximately 3.34% of the amount billed. We appreciate the timely payments by the vast majority of our customers.

Sewer User Charge History:

2019	\$42.00	2022-2024	\$49.00
2020	\$43.00	2025	\$55.00
2021	\$48.00		

Winter Reminders

- If you see a red light on or see water pooling near sewer lines, this is **not** normal and should be reported to the District immediately so any necessary repairs can be made.
- Please make sure your grinder pump basin lid is on and secure. There should be a lock on one side and a ring on the other.
- Please notify **Digger's Hotline** if you are planning any digging on your property, remodeling, or replacing a driveway so we can mark the sewer lines. Remember, **you are responsible** to mark your own private sewer lateral and electrical wires to the grinder pump if you provide the electricity to the pump. Through October, Brian has marked 398 Digger's Hotline Tickets!
- If you have a grinder pump basin on your property, please be sure to prune/trim the plants around it so our service operators can gain access to the basin should repairs be necessary.
- Similarly, please do not pile brush on top of your grinder basins. **Snow and ice** accumulate on those piles during the winter, and our service operator cannot get to the grinder pump should repairs be necessary.
- If you plan on tearing down an existing home and rebuild, please contact our service operators. The existing line needs to be capped off. If you share a grinder pump and the electricity is on your home, arrangements need to be made for temporary service so your neighbors continue to have sewer service.
- Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District reminds us to "**Shovel, Scatter, Switch,**" or simply put, **shovel** the snow first, and most importantly, use the correct amount of salt. If you use salt, **scatter** a coffee mug full of salt is enough for about 60-70 feet of sidewalk. Also remember, if the pavement temperature is below 15 degrees salt will not work. **Switch** to a blend that works at lower temperatures. Visit <https://www.wisaltwise.com/Take-Action/Smart-Salting> for more information!



The Commissioners and Staff of the District wish each of you a Joyous Holiday Season and a Safe and Happy New Year!