



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—June 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/services>

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

SANITARY SEWER DISTRICTS

There are four established areas throughout the Town that have sanitary sewer service. These are called the four of Dunn Sanitary Districts. Please click below to access more information about each sanitary district.

DISTRICT 1
KEGONSA SANITARY DISTRICT
DISTRICT 3
DISTRICT 4

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. We will also keep you updated on correspondence received from the WisDOT on the roundabout project. Like us!



Using the System

Don't Flush These Items!

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. Please do not place any of the items listed below into your toilet, sink, shower, bathtub, garbage disposal or any other drain. Even if the label reads "flushable" it's safer to place the item in a trashcan.

DON'T FLUSH ME!

- Personal or cleaning wipes, sponges
- Diapers or baby wipes, socks, rags, cloths, towels, underwear
- 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
- Flammable-hazardous materials, strong chemicals

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.



Inflow and Infiltration

The total portion of user charges, which are attributable to wastewater treatment services and paid by the Kegonsa Sanitary District to Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) from April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024, was \$172,923.17. In this time period, the District pumped 44,684,741 gallons to MMSD for treatment. This is a decrease of 393,535 gallons from the previous time period. 2023 was a dry year with drought conditions in Southern Wisconsin. However, our daily recordings continue to show increases in flow with every rain event. We believe the main cause of these increased flows are sump pumps connected to the system and/or water seeping into basements/crawl spaces and going down the drain to the sewer system. We all need to all do our part and make sure sump pumps are not connected to the sewer system. Remember it is a violation of KSD's Sewer Use Ordinance and MMSD's Sewer Use Ordinance to discharge clear water into the sanitary sewer.

We know you are concerned with the sewer charge rate. MMSD keeps the District informed of costs through Community Customer meetings. MMSD is on a ten-year plan to upgrade the structures at their plant and to expect an increase in charges by 9% each year. This past year, our service operator focused on preventative maintenance of the District's equipment. We are hoping to limit our reactive maintenance in equipment within our system. We are committed to keep your sewer use charge stable with no significant increases. Following is a comparison of gallons pumped to MMSD and what the District was charged for treatment in the past three years:

Date	Charged	Gallons
04/01/2023-03/31/2024	\$172,923.17	44,684,741
04/01/2022-03/31/2023	\$161,902.40	45,078,276
04/01/2021-03/31/2022	\$155,398.08	45,090,736



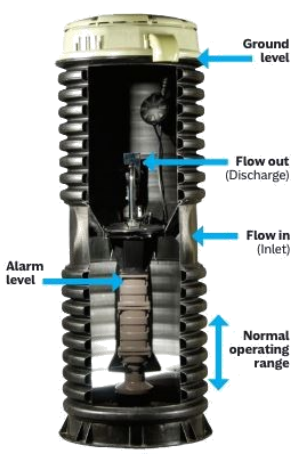
We are looking for someone to become a member of our 4-person on call rotation to handle issues that may arise with the sanitary collection system during nights and weekends. Pay is \$320.00 per week and individual would be responsible for one week out of every four weeks. If you, or someone you know would be interested, please have them contact Brian at 608-873-0230 or 608-843-6026.

What's Happening This Summer...

- You may see crews from Visu-Sewer in your neighborhood. The Wisconsin DNR requires the District to televise our gravity lines to inspect for leaks/ areas of concern. We can also see if there is continuous flow from your lateral if you have gravity service to the main. The District has just over a mile of gravity sewer main.
- The District's four lift stations are having an electrical upgrade. Electrical components currently in the stations are not readily available anymore, time for an upgrade!
- There is a stand-by generator being installed at Pump Station C. The extreme weather events are more frequent in recent years. With the addition of this generator, if power goes out, the flow from Pleasant Springs Sanitary District and Kegonsa Sanitary District will move with minimal interaction from our service operator. We still have neighborhoods North of the Administration Building and HavenPark Trailer Park that will need the portable generator for pumping in power outages, but knowing the bulk of the flow moves with stand-by generators at Pump Station B, the Administration Building, and now Pump Station C is a huge relief during power outages and weather related events.
- Brian and Mark are being pro-active on grinder pump maintenance. Grinder pumps/meter readings are checked in the spring and fall. If you feel the pump is running louder than usual or longer, please call Brian and he will come and check it out!

A Word About Grinder Pumps....

The **alarm is sounding** and the red light is on, now what do you do?



- Call the service technician on-call at 608-843-6026 and report the alarm. Do not use water until our technicians says the pump is functioning.
- **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.
- 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!

Grinder Pump Electricity Reminder

If you share a grinder pump with your neighbor, one of you provides the electricity to the pump. Occasionally the District experiences problems when a homeowner accidentally turns off the power to the pump (shuts off breaker or has an electrician visit to rewire something else in the home). Remember, our pump requires a separate circuit. Altering that can cause the pump to malfunction. The electricity needs to be on so the pump runs to avoid a backup in any of the homes served by the grinder pump station. We all want to avoid that situation. If you have any questions about the electricity, please contact Brian at 608-843-6026.

We recently asked our engineer firm to review the cost you should be reimbursing your neighbor because of increasing utility rates. **It is now recommended the annual amount to be paid to the neighbor that provides electricity to the grinder pump station is \$18.**

Payment Drop Box

Don't forget, we have installed a payment drop box for you to use to drop off payments when the office is closed. The drop box is located in the service entrance door next to garage door #1.



Sewer Emergencies — How You Can Be Notified

If you want to be notified as soon as possible if a sewer emergency could effect you please consider signing up for the Town of Dunn's E-Updates at: dunn.civicweb.net/Portal/Subscribe.aspx.

To subscribe to the District's updates, simply check the box next to Kegonsa Sanitary District—Town of Dunn Sanitary District #2, enter your email address, and complete the verification code. The next time an update is made, you will receive a notification directly to your email's inbox!

If you are concerned if Lake Kegonsa is safe to swim in or not, this is information KSD received from the Wisconsin Department of Health:

- If you do choose to go in the water, DHS recommends you wash your hands thoroughly or shower after leaving the water, avoid swallowing any water while swimming or boating, and avoid touching any foam that may have built up.
- Lake Kegonsa State Park Beach is monitored by the DNR. Results are posted on this website: <https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/beachhealth/> An advisory will be listed for E. coli levels above 235 CFU/100 mL, and closure for E Coli levels above 1000 CFU/100 mL.

Summer 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **Automatic Bill Payment:** 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 September 1, 2024 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 at the Town's website.