



Village Low Pressure Sewer Project

Frequently Asked Questions

February 28, 2025

Stanley Council would like to thank everyone who attended the open house meetings held in January 27 & 28, 2025 at the RM Office regarding the proposed Low-Pressure Sewer wastewater project for the Villages of Reinfeld and Schanzenfeld.

Below were the most frequently asked questions from those meetings, along with responses.

Why are we doing this? What is the purpose of this project?

There are several reasons Council has considered for moving ahead with this project.

- Council wants to provide an option to sewage holding tanks for properties with aging septic fields
- Provincial agencies could only issue a variance to install a new septic field on properties less than 2 acres provided they were subdivided prior to September 28, 2009.
- If properties are under 1 acre, a secondary treatment would be required, plus the property width would need to be a minimum 60 m. Depending on soil types, a secondary treatment may be required for parcels under 2 acres.
- Provincial Regulations would only approve a modification of expansion to an existing system (examples: replacing tank, increasing size of field, replacing trenches) if the property is over 2 acres and at least 60 m wide.
- Currently, the RM of Stanley lagoon is at full capacity which means there can be no further growth in any RM communities
- Significant Federal and Provincial government grants were available to help fund this type of project

Why do I need to connect within 10 years?

At this point the Province of Manitoba regulation states that a resident will need to connect within 10 years of the sewer service being available. Expansions or replacements of existing failing systems are not and will not be allowed under the same legislation. Holding tanks are also not allowed if there is a sewer system available.

The Regulation states:

8.1(1) If a wastewater collection system is installed in an area not previously serviced by a wastewater collection system, an owner of land in that area must
(a) connect his or her wastewater sources to the wastewater collection system; and
(b) take any onsite wastewater management system or privy located on the land out of service and decommission it;



(c) the passing of a period of 10 years from the day the wastewater collection system was installed; or

(d) the transfer or subdivision of the land, other than a transfer or subdivision exempted under section 8.2.1.

What is the connection cost for me if I decide to connect after the early deadline?

The \$1,000 discount expires on May 1 2025.

The future costs of connecting will be the current cost plus the cost of borrowing required by the RM (currently estimated at 5.225% per year) for the applicable period of time.

What is the quarterly operating charge going to be for me? What is the utility rate going to be?

The RM is required to complete a utility rate study to be approved by the Public Utilities Board before these costs can be confirmed. A utility rate study is currently underway to determine not only the current water rates but also including future sewer rates. This information will be provided as soon as it is available.

What are my financing options and what are my pay out options?

Council has agreed to provide a financing alternative by including an annual payment on the property taxes for the property taxes. The cost will be financed over 20 years at an estimated interest rate of 5.225%. Residents will have one opportunity pay off the remaining balance at the 10-year mark, if they choose.

Of course, residents can always arrange their own financing through a bank of their choice.

Is the price guaranteed to me if I sign up before the April 30, 2025 deadline?

Yes, the price is guaranteed if residents commit before April 30 2025.

However, if tender pricing for the project is less than estimated, the price will be reduced accordingly. The RM is working hard to find ways to reduce costs.

Who pays if a new pump or tank is needed?

The property owner is responsible for any upgrades or replacements. The pump, tank, and piping up to the road-side valve will remain the property of the homeowner.

How is the sewer rate billed to me?

The sewer rate is based on the quarterly water consumption through the water meter. The sewer and water rates will be shown separately on the utility bill.

After I connect, do I have to get rid of my septic field or what happens to it?



After the property is connected to the municipal sewer system, an out-of-service septic field may be left in place, or it can be removed.

There is a process to follow outlined in the provincial regulations which provides direction on removing septic fields.

SWAMP has indicated it can accept product from a decommissioned septic field.

Would a secondary suite be on the same hook-up as the primary house? What about my shop?

Each parcel will receive a single connection. A secondary suite, shop, or other outbuildings would be connected to the same line to a single tank. If a parcel is subdivided in the future, both parcels will be required to connect to individual connections.

What is being done in terms of backflow protection?

To prevent effluent from backing into residential tanks, each system has a heavy duty check valve installed between the curb stop and the pump. Each pump also has a built-in check valve.

Where are the connections made and how is the connection done?

Each property will have a connection point at the property line. From that connection, the service line will either go to the septic tank or to the exterior of the house.

If the pump is in the tank, the outlet that was going to the septic field gets transferred to the new service line. The septic field line is capped. In the tank a new check valve and back flow preventer is installed between the pump and outlet.

If the pump is in the basement, the line is brought beside the house where the line outlets to the septic field. The septic field line is capped, and the new service line is tied into the outlet on the exterior of the house. Inside the house, a new check valve is installed between the pump and outlet.

Can I put my sump or drain tile water into the LPS?

No. Like all sewer systems, the design capacity does not allow for other water.

Am I paying for future developers' share of the infrastructure cost? Are we doing this for the developers?

No. The shared costs have been calculated on a per-property basis for both existing and future properties. Current residents will pay for the internal village sewer lines plus their share of the force-main lines and lift stations. Future developed lots will pay a share of the costs for this project for those developments at that time. The Developers will also be required to pay to install new infrastructure at that time.

**How does this system work? What are the different parts of the system**

The system takes the place of only your existing septic field. Each property pumps grey water into the Low-Pressure Sewer (LPS) network which is brought to a lift station. The lift station will then pump into a high-pressure force-main pipe to the waste treatment site at the Winkler lagoon.

Each property connected to the LPS will still consist of an effluent tank, pump, and check valve.

The lift station consists of a well to collect the wastewater, pumps, odour control system, generator, and associated equipment to allow the system to run. See the [website](#) for more details.

Will my pump need to be replaced? Who determines if my pump or tank needs to be replaced?

The municipality will contract the inspection work. The tank, pump, and connections will be checked during the inspection.

For the tank to be in good working order, there cannot be any holes in the side of the tank or in the baffle which separates the solids from the liquids.

The pump size is checked. If the pump is not within an acceptable range, it will need to be replaced. Most ½ hp pumps should work at the beginning but may need to be replaced in the future. Most 1 hp pumps will be too large and will need to be replaced.

What will be the alignment of the main line be in my front yard? Why not put the mainline down the back yards on easement?

For the purposes of installation and ongoing maintenance, the mainlines will be installed in the municipal ROW ditch. The general alignment will be center of the ROW ditch.

Will the lines be trenched or directionally drilled?

All lines within the villages will be directionally drilled. The force main pipes outside of the villages may be trenched at points.

Do I need to get my septic tank cleaned out?

The RM of Stanley is planning on cleaning out the septic tank and inspection once a year which will be included in the utility rate.

Feel free to contact the RM of Stanley office with any other questions

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- 204.325.4101