



## North Santiam Sewer Authority

northsantiamsewer@gmail.com

northsantiamsewer.net

P.O. Box 256  
444 S 1st Ave  
Mill City, OR 97360

**NSSA Board Meeting #93**  
**August 5, 2024, at 6:00 pm**  
**Mill City, City Hall**

<https://zoom.us/j/93414748822?pwd=MjJkM3VyY21YS1BDK2doVEplZ25uUT09>

Meeting ID: 934 1474 8822

Passcode: 454959

- A. Roll Call and Declarations of Conflicts of Interest
- B. Announcements
- C. Public Comment

### Old Business

- D. Consent Agenda
- E. Approval of July 1<sup>st</sup> Regular Board Meeting Minutes

### New Business

- F. September 2<sup>nd</sup> reschedule date
- G. Treasurer's Report (Evans)
  - a. Scofield airfare
- H. Staff Report (Conroy)
  - b. Google drive NSSA Video File Storage process
- I. County Update (Einmo)
- J. Agency Updates (DEQ, Business Oregon, Regional Solutions Coordinator)
- K. Executive Session: In accordance with ORS 192.660(2)(f) to consider information or records that are exempt from disclosure by law, including written advice from the NSSA attorney. ORS 192.660(2)(f).

*Executive Sessions are closed to the public and all members of the audience are asked to leave the room for those attending virtually, we will place you in the waiting room.*

*Representatives of the news media and designated staff may attend Executive Sessions.*

*Representatives of the news media are directed not to report on any deliberations during the Executive Session. No decision may be made in executive session. At the end of the executive session, we will return to the open session and welcome the audience back into the room.*

**Upcoming Events:**

Date	Event	Location
09/2024	NSSA Regular Board Meeting	Mill City, City Hall and Zoom
10/07/2024	NSSA Regular Board Meeting	Mill City, City Hall and Zoom



**North Santiam  
Sewer Authority**

3

[northsantiamsewer@gmail.com](mailto:northsantiamsewer@gmail.com)

[northsantiamsewer.net](http://northsantiamsewer.net)

P.O. Box 256  
444 S 1st Ave  
Mill City, OR 97360

**NSSA TREASURY**

---

---

# NSSA TREASURY REPORT

## FOR

## JULY 2024

PREPARED BY:

Ronald V. Evans

NSSA Treasurer

[CityofGateswater@gmail.com](mailto:CityofGateswater@gmail.com)

---

---

# NSSA TREASURY

---

---

## Table of Contents

NSSA STATUS .....	3
NSSA GENERAL LEDGER, FISCAL 24- 25 .....	4
INVOICES RECEIVED IN JULY .....	4

## NSSA TREASURY

---

---

### NSSA STATUS

Starting 1 July, we will be starting the 24 – 25 fiscal budget.

# NSSA TREASURY

## NSSA GENERAL LEDGER, FISCAL 24- 25

Date	Starting Balance	Deposits	Invoices Paid	Check #	Invoice #	Category	US Bank Balance	COMMENTS
June 30, 2024							\$52,568.24	June 30 ending balance
July 12, 2024	\$52,568.24		\$1,217.54	1045	PO-NSSA-12024-00		\$51,350.70	CIS 24 - 25 POLICY
July 12, 2024	\$51,350.70		\$2,183.38	1046	3344B		\$49,167.32	MWVCOG
July 14, 2024	\$49,167.32		\$17.95				\$49,149.37	Single Point service

## INVOICES RECEIVED IN JULY

Invoice # PO-NSSA-12024-00	\$ 1,217.54	CIS Policy renewal
Invoice # 334b	\$ 2,183.38	MWVCOG



100 HIGH STREET S.E., Suite 200 | SALEM, OREGON 97301 | [www.mwvcog.org](http://www.mwvcog.org)  
T: 503.588.6177 | F: 503-588-6094 | E: [mwvcog@mwvcog.org](mailto:mwvcog@mwvcog.org)  
*An equal opportunity lender, provider, and employer*

---

**Date:** August 2, 2024  
**To:** NSSA Board  
**From:** Laura Conroy, Project Manager and Budget Officer  
**Subject:** July Staff Report

---

## Introduction

This memo provides an overview of staff activities for July in support of the NSSA. With the budget approved and the IGAs drafted and ready, staff prioritized coordinating discussions and efforts to update the three-basin rule with Marion County and other interested parties.

## Communications

COG staff is continuing to develop and implement a communications strategy with MIG, Kellar's communications contractor, to inform interested parties about the need for a three-basin rule update. Materials include an FAQ, letters and resolutions of support for cities and other public bodies to adopt, powerpoint for Marion County public works city council presentation, cover memo and actual petition language. COG requested a list of interested parties from DEQ and worked with City of Salem in an effort to ensure engagement with all known or knowable interested parties. COG will be placing these materials on NSSA website. County public works staff and COG are scheduling staff-level meetings with other waste water utilities and city council meetings with interested parties.

## Regulatory /Legislative Pathway Meetings

COG staff continue to coordinate with County staff, DEQ and interested parties in support of a petition to update the Three Basin Rule in response to the Supreme Court's *Maui* decision and draft EPA guidance to ensure the treatment facilities being designed and constructed can be permitted to operate. Efforts have primarily been focused on communications and outreach.

COG continues to support staff level meetings between the County and downstream parties to discuss the need for a three basin update. COG arranged a meeting with Marion County and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde staff to discuss the update to the three-basin rule. Tribal staff requested additional information and will work to present information to the tribal council in September.

The petition for the rule update will be filed on August 8<sup>th</sup> and the Environmental Quality Commission as 90 days to take action on the petition. Any rule that the EQC adopts is likely to take effect in May 2024. Simultaneously, conversations have restarted about a bill for the 2025 session that would create statutory authority for the development and permitting of domestic sewage treatment facilities in the three basins in the event an administrative rule change process is unsuccessful.

### **Construction Funding**

COG staff continued to meet with county staff, business Oregon and the regional solutions team coordinator regarding other funding sources.

### **Detroit Commercial Septic Grants**

The County continues to reach out to commercial septic owners in Detroit. As the county will explain in their update, the DEQ has signaled that commercial septic owners will be required to obtain WPCF permits. This is a change in agency interpretation its rules that may delay construction of commercial septic solutions.

### **Residential Septic Grants**

The deadline for applying for residential septic grants is October 1 of this year. COG and Marion County both have grant funds available for residential septic grants. COG received a 2 million dollar grant from DEQ. The amount of COG's grant awards depends on the property owners income in 2021. Higher amounts are available for individuals with income below the Census determined median income level. COG has awarded 121 grants for a total of \$626,500 distributed to canyon property owners.

Grants by City
Gates: 15
Detroit: 56
Lyons: 49
Mill City: 1
Total: 121



## MARION COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

---

### North Santiam Sewer Agency Board Meeting, August 5, 2024 Project Update

#### **Mill City Treatment Plant Site**

Property access has been restored and Slayden's forces constructed a pilot infiltration basin on the site. GSI & GSA are performing a test by applying tap water to the basin and observing the groundwater mounding response. This data will help refine our estimates of effluent travel time to the river and establish operating parameters that future operators will use to dispose of treated effluent.

#### **Commercial Septic Grant Program – High Strength Waste**

The commercial septic grant program offers resources to support property owners including (1) a design/permitting consultant, (2) exploratory field services, (3) reimbursement of construction costs, and (4) permit fees. This grant program operates separately from any permitting process but requires a permit from appropriate authorities as a prerequisite.

Generally septic repairs in fire-impacted are permitting under Marion County's onsite wastewater program. However those contemplating activities that generate "high strength waste" (HSW) using any pretreatment other than a grease trap require a new WPCF permit (OAR 340-071-0130(15)(b)(B)), such as full-service restaurants, bars, fast food, coffee stands, bakeries, and laundromats. The WPCF rules contain no provisions for repairs to prior non-conforming systems.

The small lot sizes in Detroit and requirement for a new WPCF permit may constrain property owners' use of the property. DEQ cannot commit to allowing repairs in advance of any WPCF permit application but may consider these repairs on a case-by-case basis.

#### Clarifications:

- Marion County staff have no permitting role in WPCF permits and cannot answer specific questions related to these permits.
- Individual WPCF permits are not prohibited by the Three Basin Rule.
- The permit rules and small lot sizes will likely restrict commercial use, but sizing calculations are subject to soil testing and further design work.
- WPCF processing time is typically 3-6 months<sup>1</sup> after completing a design and soil evaluation.
- Holding tanks can be permitted at the County level with DEQ approval. A City-level analysis to ensure that the logistics and treatment capacity can be met is recommended.

These challenges in Detroit further highlight the need for sewer systems in Canyon communities. A publicly-owned conveyance and treatment system is likely to be the only solution that is not constrained by lot size. NSSA's efforts to

<sup>1</sup>A Guide to Oregon Permits Issued by State & Federal Agencies.

[https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/crp/docs/coastal\\_coho/permit\\_streamlining/Newport/other%20docs/permitguide.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/crp/docs/coastal_coho/permit_streamlining/Newport/other%20docs/permitguide.pdf)

**Petition to Update the Three Basin Rule**

As part of its role in delivering sewer systems as a contracting agency, Marion County is preparing to submit a Petition for Rule Change to OAR 340-041-0350, aka “The Three Basin Rule” on August 8. The proposed petition and rule language are attached to this update and hosted on the project website at [www.northsantiamsewer.net](http://www.northsantiamsewer.net).

The Supreme Court decision *Maui County vs. Hawaii Wildlife Fund* (2020) necessitates the need for an NPDES permit. However, communities within these regions are specifically prohibited from obtaining such a permit under a state administrative rule:

*“No NPDES permits for new industrial or new confined animal feeding operation waste discharges, or new domestic sewage treatment facilities may be issued...”*

**Call to Action**

Marion County requests that NSSA support its petition for rule change. Requests for public comment are expected in an August/September timeframe.