

Everyone wants to know...Where are we with sewers?

The answer is... Sewers are very close to becoming reality for the Koontz Lake community.

Funding has been committed. Design engineering has been completed. Land has been purchased for the treatment plant. Many easements have been secured. Most of the permits required have been secured. At the time of this writing (end of April), we are waiting for two final permits that will (1) allow us to gain access to the funds and (2) begin the construction bid process.

We fully expect that construction will begin this year. The project should take about a year and a half to complete and then we will be in operation.

So that's it in a nutshell. But, of course, that only opens up more questions and concerns. We have tried to address most of these on our FAQ webpage at www.klrds.org. Please visit us there if you can. We also have e-mail board@klrsd.org and open board meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 CST at the KLA Clubhouse where specific questions can be addressed.

We are happy to say that an additional \$1million has been awarded to us above the original loan/grant package. This extra money will reduce our rates to around \$55 per month. This is still an estimate until actual construction bids are received, but we are pretty confident in it.

There is the likelihood that we will start sending out bills during construction. The natural response to this is... why should I start paying for sewers before I am connected and can use them? The answer is, think about this as being similar to a construction loan if you were building a home. When construction starts you have to draw money from the loan to pay contractors as construction progresses. Our loan will start to accrue interest and without income from rate collections the interest will build up and add an unnecessary cost. We feel, therefore, that it is a good management decision to collect the loan payment portion of the bill and start to pay down the loan as soon as possible. We expect this to be about \$30 per month. When the system is completed and you get connected, the operational portion of the bill will be added on, bringing your rate up to the estimated \$55.

A note about easements.

If you have not been contacted by our engineers, Wightman Petrie, about an easement for placement of a grinder pump on your property, then you will share a pump on a neighbors' property.

If you have been contacted about an easement and you have not responded or have not allowed it, please know that the grinder will still be installed but in the public right-of-way at a substantially higher cost. Refusal to allow an easement will not keep you out of the system; it will only cause increased construction cost which is shared by everybody. Please reconsider and contact the KLRSD Board or the engineer.

Yes, we really are close to realizing this long awaited vital improvement, an investment in our community that will help protect our environment, our drinking water, our lake and will mean a brighter future for the next generations.

We know there are lots of questions and concerns about this project. We will hold a meeting at the Firehouse on Saturday, July 24 at 9:00 AM CDT to address all of these issues the best we can. Please join us.

We appreciate your continued support.

The Board of Trustees of the Koontz Lake Regional Sewer District