



**Please Don't Even Think of Raising Our Rates
Until You Disclose Critical Financial Information.**

We didn't show up to sign a blank check today to simply allow you to increase our rates!

- ❖ **Warning! There will be two important votes at the hearing, to learn more about why you should say NO to Ordinance 25-4 and NO to Resolution 25-6 see Attachment A in this packet for a quick explanation.**
- ❖ **Use our “I Urge You to Vote No” sign—** If you don't feel comfortable speaking at this hearing, use the sign printed with this handout and hold it up when the Board Chair asks for public comment on each of the two public hearings the District is holding today. While we encourage everyone to speak out about why the Board should vote NO on the proposed ordinance and resolution, this sign gives you the option to show your opposition and ask the Board (1) to oppose Ordinance 25-4 which removes ratepayers' right to have a district-wide vote on this and future rate increases and (2) to oppose Resolution 25-6 and insist the Board table the proposed rate increase until more information is provided to the public, including evening work sessions for questions and answers, so that more ratepayers may attend.

Not sure what to say at this hearing?

Here Are Questions You Can Ask That Need Answers Today

- 1. Show us the whole truth about what this expansion will cost and how high our rates will possibly go.** Why is the cost for this expansion stated as almost \$29 million in the flyer LCWSD mailed District ratepayers but, when asked about the full cost of the expansion at the June 17, 2025 LCWSD Board meeting the Board and staff told the public it was now up to \$45 million? **Yet, in the budget the District sent the state documenting the actual costs the District shows a cost of \$58 million?** (see Attachment B)
- 2. Show Us Your Budget! How can the District say it needs to raise our rates when it hasn't adopted a budget for this fiscal year?** As of June 30, 2025 Lakeside County Water and Sewer District (LCWSD) is operating without an adopted budget for fiscal year (FY) 2026, which runs from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. The District has not even produced a draft budget for fiscal year 2025.

3. **Since 2021 the District has routinely raised our rates each year by 5%. How much money did that raise and how did the District spend it?** Don't just tell us, show us the detailed income and expenses. Show us exactly with clear income and expense figures why LCWSD now needs to raise our rates by 60% or more. We want to see the detailed budgets with income and expenses for the past five years to better understand how the District has been spending our money. Why is the LCWSD website virtually devoid of any financial information? **Show Us Your Budgets for the Past Five Years.**
4. **How can LCWSD suggest a rate hike for our District when it has failed to have legally required financial audits of its operations and management done since 2021.** When will the 2023 and 2025 audit be done?
5. **Where is the \$75,000 Rate Study LCWSD has commissioned according to the \$58 million dollar project budget it provided to Citizens for a Better Flathead (Attachment B). Why would LCWSD propose to raise our rates before this study is done and shared with all ratepayers?**
6. **We want to know the full costs now. Show all charges we will be facing in the next two to five years to pay for this expansion and ongoing operations and maintenance of the water and sewer district when it has expanded from 300,000 gallons per day to 900,000 gallons per day of sewage and septic waste.** What's the difference between a rate increase and a levy? What other currently non-disclosed cost increases is LCWSD going to saddle us with to pay for any future costs/loans/bonds/fees for use of and operation and expansion of this Sewer District?
7. **Expert scientists have shown this proposed expansion will degrade and harm Flathead Lake and that the is a terrible location to expand. Why not just stay small and cancel this major proposed expansion that appears to be of greater benefit to new luxury exclusive subdivisions rather than to the ratepayers and long time residents of Lakeside?** Protecting Flathead Lake and keeping our rates affordable should be LCWSD's top priority. Citizens for a Better Flathead (CBF) and the CSKT tribes are suing the state over the state's failure to consider these scientific findings and they argue they are likely to win their case. If they win, we will likely have no choice but to abandon these expansion plans so let's do that now before we invest millions of dollars in an expansion that will likely harm Flathead Lake and waste millions of dollars of taxpayer money before we know the outcome of this lawsuit and make our rates unaffordable.
8. **Flathead County needs to find another safer location for a facility to handle all the county's septic waste. And, better yet the County and large new subdivisions, need to invest in new technology that turns sewage into energy, or treats it to a drinking water standard as the new expandable modular StreamGo system, recently installed at the Yellow Bay Biological Station on the shore of Flathead Lake now does.** (see Attachment C)

I Urge You to Vote No on Ordinance 25-4

which strips us of our legal right to put your rate increases to a vote of District ratepayers now or in the future.

I Urge You to Table Resolution 25-6

which will raise my rates by 60%, (or more). Table this rate increase and give us the financial documents to show us the real cost of this expansion and the long-term rate increases it will bring.

**Today, the Lakeside County Water and Sewer District Board will vote on
Ordinance 25-4 and Resolution 25-6.**

Tell them to vote NO on Ordinance 25-4, which removes ratepayers right to have a district-wide vote on this and future rate increases

ORDINANCE NO. 25-4

ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR ESTABLISHING AND
MODIFYING SEWER RATES AND CHARGES BY
RESOLUTION

RECITALS

WHEREAS, Lakeside County Water & Sewer District, Montana (the “District”) has been duly created pursuant to Montana Code Annotated, Title 7, Chapter 13, Parts 22 and 23, and the District currently operates a water system and a sewer system; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the District (the “Board”) previously set sewer rates for the customers of the District by ordinance, but has set water rates by resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to provide for establishing and modifying rates and charges for the use and availability of the sewer system by resolution instead of by ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board as follows:

Section 1. Sewer Rates to be Set by Resolution. The Board hereby determines that the rates and charges for the use of the and availability of the sewer system will hereafter be made by resolution of the Board of Directors duly adopted in accordance with law.

Section 2. Conflict with Other Ordinances or Resolutions. All parts of ordinances and resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect 30 days following its passage by the Board on second reading.

**Increasing rates
by resolution
means that
ratepayers will
not be able to
repeal the decision
by putting it to a
District-wide vote.**

Speak up now, before it's too late.

If this ordinance is passed, it would allow the Board to vote on rate increases, over a cumulative 5%, after one reading at one meeting and with no opportunity by ratepayers to repeal by a District-wide vote.

Ordinances must be read twice at two separate meetings to be legal. Resolutions only need to be read once to satisfy legal requirements. By passing this ordinance, **the Board has essentially absolute power to raise your rates and ratepayers will have no opportunity to repeal these increases. by a District-wide vote.**



No rate study has been provided to the public to justify these rate increases.

Ask the Board: Why?

Current Rates

(b) Current Base Rate. For metered customers, the District charges a monthly base rate of \$31.59 per VRU (the “Base Rate per VRU”), which does not include any water usage.

(d) Monthly Charge. The current monthly charge for customers with a water meter (the “Monthly Charge”) is equal to the Base Rate per VRU plus the Usage Fee.

1.02 Flat Rate. For customers of the System that remain on a flat rate since the time the District was established, the District charges a flat rate of \$48.62 (the “Flat Rate”).

1.03 Flat Rate for Noncompliance. For customers of the System that are required to install water meters but have refused to do so, the District charges a flat rate for noncompliance of \$79.00.

New Rates

Section 2. New Rates.

2.01 Monthly Charge for Metered Customers.

(a) New Base Rate. Commencing with the September 2025 billing, for metered customers, the monthly Base Rate per VRU is equal to \$61.59 (the “New Base Rate per VRU”).

(b) Usage Fee. The Usage Fee will remain in effect at of \$2.43 per 1,000 gallons of water or portion thereof used per user per month.

(c) New Monthly Charge. Commencing with the September 2025 billing, the new monthly charge is equal to the New Base Rate per VRU plus the Usage Fee.

2.02 New Flat Rate. Commencing with the September 2025 billing, the Flat Rate is equal to \$78.62.

2.03 New Flat Rate for Noncompliance. Commencing with the September 2025 billing, the flat rate for noncompliance is equal to \$109.00.

Section 3. Determination of Annual Budget for System. At least once each year the Board of the District shall determine the amount of money needed to pay the costs of the System including but not limited to: (a) the payment of the reasonable expense of operation and maintenance of the System; (b) administration of the System; (c) the payment of principal and interest on any bonded or other indebtedness of the System; and (d) the establishment or maintenance of any required reserves, including reserves needed for expenditures for depreciation and replacement of facilities, as may be determined necessary from time to time by the Board or as covenanted in the resolution authorizing any outstanding bonds of the System. Based on the annual needs of the System, the Board will establish monthly charges for the use of the System.

Section 4. Further Rate Increases. Subsequent adjustment to the rates and charges for the use of the System will be made by a resolution of the Board of Directors duly adopted in accordance with law.

Passed and approved this 15th day of July, 2025.

- **Base rate nearly doubles**
- **Flat rate increases by \$30/month**
- **Noncompliance flat rate increases by \$30/month**

- **Metered customers with 1VRU using 5,000 gallons per month increase 69.5%**
- **Flat rates are to increase 61.7%**
- **Noncompliance flat rates increase 38.2%**

Resolution of Intent 25-5



Attachment A

CERTIFICATE AS TO ORDINANCE AND ADOPTING VOTE

I, the undersigned, being the duly qualified and acting recording officer of Lakeside County Water & Sewer District, Montana (the "District"), hereby certify that the attached ordinance is a true copy of an Ordinance entitled: "ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR ESTABLISHING AND MODIFYING SEWER RATES AND CHARGES BY RESOLUTION" (the "Ordinance"), on file in the original records of the District in my legal custody; that the Ordinance was duly adopted on first reading by the Board of Directors of the District at a regular meeting on June 17, 2025 and that the meeting was duly held by the Board of Directors and was attended throughout by a quorum, pursuant to call and notice of such meeting given as required by law; and that the Ordinance has not as of the date hereof been amended or repealed.

I further certify that, upon vote being taken on the Ordinance at said meeting, the following Directors voted in favor thereof: _____; voted against the same: _____; abstained from voting thereon: _____; or were absent: _____.

WITNESS my hand and seal officially this 17th day of June, 2025.

(SEAL)

Secretary

I further certify that the Ordinance was duly adopted on second reading by the Board of Directors of the District at a meeting on July 15, 2025, and that the meeting was duly held by the Board of Directors and was attended throughout by a quorum, pursuant to call and notice of such meeting given as required by law; and that the Ordinance has not as of the date hereof been amended or repealed.

I further certify that, upon vote being taken on the Ordinance at said meeting, the following Directors voted in favor thereof: _____;
voted against the same: _____;
abstained from voting thereon: _____;
or were absent: _____.

WITNESS my hand and seal officially this 15th day of July, 2025.

(SEAL)

Secretary

ORDINANCE NO. 25-4

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Section 2. Conflict with Other Ordinances or Resolutions. All parts of ordinances and resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect 30 days following its passage by the Board on second reading.

PASSED, ADOPTED and APPROVED on first reading this 17th day of June, 2025.

President, Board of Directors

Attest:

Secretary

PASSED, ADOPTED and APPROVED on second reading this 15th day of July, 2025.

President, Board of Directors

Attest:

Secretary

Attachment B

UNIFORM APPLICATION PROJECT BUDGET

Completed by: Robert Peccia & Associates

For: Lakeside W&S District Wastewater Improvements Project - Includes both Phase I and Phase II

06.17.25

	SOURCE: ARPA COMPETITIVE GRANT AC-22-0033	SOURCE: ARPA MIN. ALLOCATION GRANT AM-22-0116	SOURCE: FLATHEAD COUNTY ARPA LFRF - 1	SOURCE: FLATHEAD CO. COMPETITIVE GRANT	SOURCE: DISTRICT FUNDS	SRF LOAN	SRF FORGIVENESS	SOURCE: FLATHEAD COUNTY ARPA LFRF - 2	SOURCE: WMCC VIA FLATHEAD COUNTY	SOURCE: FLATHEAD COUNTY FUNDS	SOURCE: DISTRICT FUNDS	SOURCE: SRF LOAN PHASE 2	SOURCE: SRF FORGIVENESS PHASE 2	TOTAL:
ADMINISTRATIVE and FINANCIAL COSTS:														
Personnel Costs														\$ -
Office Costs														\$ -
Funding Administration (Phase 1 and 2)						\$ 70,000.00	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 61,000.00				\$ 60,000.00		\$ 210,000.00
Legal Costs						\$ 13,302.00								\$ 13,302.00
Audit Fees					\$ 18,000.00									\$ 18,000.00
Loan Reserves						\$ 34,194.00						\$ 587,942.00		\$ 622,136.00
Rate Study			\$ 75,000.00									\$ 20,000.00		\$ 75,000.00
Bond Counsel and Related Costs						\$ 20,000.00						\$ 20,000.00		\$ 40,000.00
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCIAL COSTS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75,000.00	\$ -	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 137,496.00	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 61,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 667,942.00	\$ -	\$ 978,438.00
ACTIVITY COSTS:														
Original Facilities Plan			\$ 85,000.00											\$ 85,000.00
Preliminary Design (Original Scope)			\$ 82,664.58											\$ 82,664.58
WWTP Preliminary Engineering (Facility Plan/Public Out)						\$ 26,732.00	\$ 26,573.00	\$ 98,427.00	\$ 75,000.00					\$ 226,732.00
Groundwater Discharge Permitting			\$ 85,301.42					\$ 19,698.58	\$ 15,000.00					\$ 120,000.00
Engineering Design Phase 1 (Headworks)		\$ 325,000.00				\$ 2,322.00		\$ 124,100.00						\$ 451,422.00
Engineering Design Phase 1 (Septage)				\$ 167,087.30		\$ 263,081.00	\$ 89,000.00	\$ 214,662.70						\$ 733,831.00
Engineering Design Phase 2 (WWTP)							\$ 320,946.00		\$ 910,000.00	\$ 250,000.00		\$ 490,000.00		\$ 1,970,946.00
Construction Engineering Services - Phase 1 (Headworks & Septage)	\$ 370,350.00					\$ 630,369.00	\$ 394,481.00							\$ 1,395,200.00
Construction Engineering Services - Phase 2 (WWTP)											\$ 1,400,000.00			\$ 1,400,000.00
Construction - Phase 1 (Headworks)	\$ 1,629,650.00	\$ 330,933.00			\$ 1,132,088.00			\$ 3,333,467.00		\$ 6,263,862.42				\$ 12,690,000.42
Construction - Phase 1 (Septage)					\$ 575,546.00			\$ 3,769,556.42		\$ 4,111,897.58				\$ 8,457,000.00
Construction - Phase 2 (WWTP)										\$ 3,500,000.00	\$ 966,942.00	\$ 17,533,058.00	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 25,000,000.00
Contingency - Phase 1 (Headworks and Septage)					\$ 2,096,700.00						\$ 933,058.00			\$ 3,029,758.00
Contingency - Phase 2 (WWTP)											\$ 1,900,000.00			\$ 1,900,000.00
TOTAL ACTIVITY COSTS	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 655,933.00	\$ 252,966.00	\$ 167,087.30	\$ 3,804,334.00	\$ 922,504.00	\$ 831,000.00	\$ 7,559,911.70	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 14,125,760.00	\$ 5,200,000.00	\$ 18,023,058.00	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 57,542,554.00
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 655,933.00	\$ 327,966.00	\$ 167,087.30	\$ 3,822,334.00	\$ 1,060,000.00	\$ 850,000.00	\$ 7,620,911.70	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 14,125,760.00	\$ 5,200,000.00	\$ 18,691,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 58,520,992.00

Attachment C

StreamGo Sewage Treatment System

The Yellow Bay Biological Station has just finished construction of the StreamGo sewage treatment system. The StreamGo is at its base an MBR solution, but with new generation technology. Essentially, the system is more energy efficient with a smaller footprint and higher water quality output. There are four different municipal models available, ranging from a 420 ft² footprint to an 8,000 ft². The largest model can manage flows up to 500,000 gallons per day. StreamGo utilizes AI technology to monitor the facility 24/7 and provide instant fluctuation in “influent and effluent quality [while remotely predicting] cleaning and routine maintenance cycles”¹

StreamGo treats PFAS by providing an “all-in-one removal and destruction” program, which isolates and destroys PFAS through nanotechnology adsorption. The result is “100% safe, purified water for human consumption and domestic use.”² The byproduct is not only clean and safe from contaminants, but also reduces costs regarding third party destruction work. StreamGo notes that the system reduces impact to surface waters, recharges aquifers and improves agricultural production all while reducing operational costs through direct re-use.

A plant has been installed in Yellowstone National Park at Mammoth, Wyoming, and as of this year, is now operating at full capacity – 900,000 gpd peak day flow. Winter weather has not hindered the productivity of this site.³

For more information and case studies: <https://www.streamgo.ca/resources>

¹

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/643844817305270968bea708/649a003916f486fdca45954d_StreamGo_MBR_Brochure_0623.pdf (p.1)

²

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/643844817305270968bea708/649a003eeb59af9fa0e8a712_f945c909092d69fa9a94c89b7c4703ee_StreamGo_PFAS_Brochure_0623.pdf (p.3)

³ https://ca.linkedin.com/company/streamgo-water-solutions?trk=public_post_feed-actor-name