

4. PLANNING FOR CONNECTION

Important Information to help you plan for your connection(s) to the proposed sewer collection system

The Board of Trustees and management staff of LaGrange County Regional Utility District ask that you begin planning *now* to connect your home or business to the proposed Region C wastewater collection system when completed in late 2019.

There are several things to consider:

1. **Placement of grinder pump system on your property:** A letter and form was mailed to you in January requesting that you document, to the best of your ability, where various structures, wells, septic-tanks and leach fields are located on your property in order to determine the best location for the grinder-pump system to be installed. If you haven't completed this information please do so as soon as possible. If you did not receive this letter please contact the District's office.
2. **Planning for the connection of your home or business to the collection system:** The cost to connect one or more structures on your property to the system will vary from property to property. The District's objective is to keep the cost to you as low as possible and we realize it can be a significant cost in the budget. There are several things you can do to make it easier to accomplish:
 - (a) Attend one or more informational meetings to be announced and held throughout the detailed planning and construction phases of the project.
 - (b) Consider who will do the work to connect your home or business to the system. Some property-owners have the skills to do it themselves. Installation requires excavation, filling and crushing the septic tank and plumbing tasks that are subject to inspection by District staff. We have enclosed a sample connection inspection checklist that the District's staff uses. The District will also provide you a list of licensed contractors in the area who can perform this work. Several things to consider if hiring a contractor:
 - i. Licensing. If you hire a contractor to do the work they must be licensed in the state of Indiana.
 - ii. Qualifications. Have they done work like this before? Experience counts.
 - iii. Request estimates from more than one contractor.
 - iv. Consider working with your neighbors on a combined job to get the best deal for everyone.

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3. **Paying for the cost to connect to the system:** If you don't think you will have the means to pay for the connection work at the time it needs to be done, you may wish to consider financing it. If so, please speak with a financial professional at your bank or other institution to determine the least expensive way to finance the connection on credit. Also, certain property-owners over age 62, OR who make less than a certain annual income limit, may qualify for a construction grant and/or low interest loan with the Division of Rural Development of the United States Department of Agriculture. Please review the enclosed brochure from USDA/RD, and if you think you may qualify, mail in the form to obtain an grant/loan application. The District's staff are happy to assist you with completing the form if you feel you need help.

Property-Owner Checklist:

1. Send in Property Owner Questionnaire
2. Sign easement and return it to the District office.
3. Begin planning for the cost of connection and the monthly sewer bill
4. Attend any informational meetings regarding this project
 - (a) 1st Easement Workshop March 28th, 2018 6-8pm @ District Office
 - (b) 2nd Easement Workshop April 9th, 2018 6-8pm @ District Office
 - (c) 3rd Easement Workshop April 21st, 2018 9-11am @ District Office
5. Obtain qualifications from contractors
6. Discuss connection plans with your neighbors
7. Obtain quotes to perform work
8. Wait to receive a Notice to Connect letter from the District (Fall 2019)
9. Fill out an Application to Connect with the District.
10. Connect to the system
 - (a) If you do the work yourself be sure to call 811 to have all utility lines located!

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