

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: David Chanski, City Administrator
RE: Sewer Expansion Next Steps
DATE: August 1, 2023



Background

The City is in contract with Widseth to conduct a sewer expansion study on the waste water treatment plant. It is anticipated that the plant will reach capacity in the next 5-8 years, and then will require expansion. This study should be completed by the end of the summer.

There are two next steps in the expansion planning process, and staff recommends conducting both in 2024. One step is to conduct a rate study based on the estimated expansion cost indicated in the expansion study. Staff recommends contracting with BakerTilly to conduct this rate study. Staff believes that such a rate study shouldn't cost more the \$5,000.

The other next step would be to begin the permitting process with the State of Minnesota for a sewer expansion. This process is quite detailed and will likely take the better part of a year to conduct. Staff recommends contracting with Widseth to conduct the expansion permitting process on behalf of the City. The estimated cost to have Widseth lead the City through the permitting process is \$25,000.

Both of these next steps would be paid for out of the Sewer Capital Fund and, therefore, will have no impact on the 2024 levy.

Council Discussion

As this item is primarily informational, staff is not seeking any general direction from the City Council on this matter.