

## Gull Lake Sewer & Water Authority

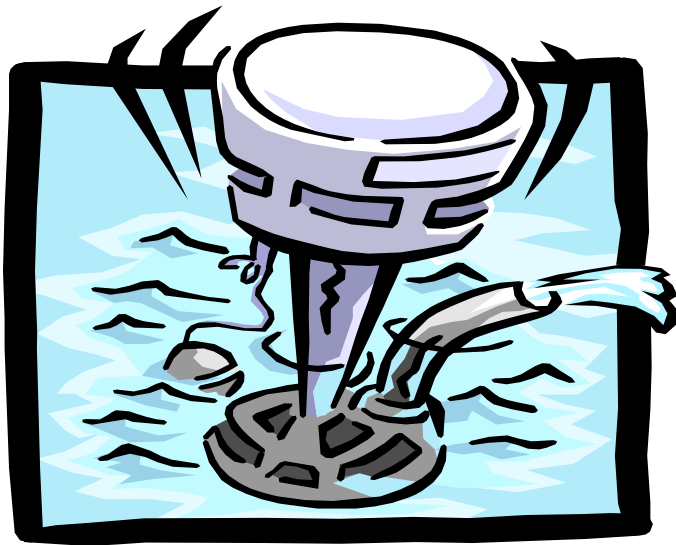
(269) 731-4595 - or glswa.org

### DO YOU HAVE BASEMENT GROUNDWATER PROBLEMS?

### DO YOU HAVE A SUMP PUMP FOR GROUNDWATER?

### ARE YOU DISCHARGING STORM OR GROUND WATER TO THE PUBLIC SEWER VIA SUMP PUMP, FOOTING DRAINS, DOWNSPOUTS OR OTHER?

**(NOT PERMITTED!)**



NOT PERMITTED TO BE CONNECTED  
TO PUBLIC SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM

#### For your information:

- Basement footing drains + sump pumps that keep your basement or crawl space dry must **NOT** be connected to the public sanitary sewer system. Local ordinances + state plumbing code prohibit ground + storm water from being connected (1).
- Stormwater, downspouts, driveway drains must **NOT** be connected to the public sanitary sewer system.
- Over the last several years, heavy rain seems to have caused the ground water elevation in Kalamazoo County and Barry County to rise significantly.
- Our agency has experienced an increase in “wastewater” volume and believes a significant portion of the increase is due to clean water discharge from footing-underdrain systems or lower level sump pumps that may be connected to the sewer.
- Approximately 33% of our costs (of the monthly sewer use bill) are for treatment of wastewater at the City of Kalamazoo. We pay the same rate per gallon to the City regardless of dilution.
- Due to increasing costs, we implemented rate increases in 2012-2014 and again in 2018-2021. Part of the increased cost is the “clean groundwater” entering our system.
- Connecting your footing drains or basement seepage water to the public sewer in any manner is not legal. Connecting your groundwater sump pump to the public sewer is not legal -- nor does it make sense -- as a household pump system cannot pump enough water to lower the water table of the area.
- If you have a sump pump for groundwater, please make sure it is not connected to the public sewer system. Call your plumber to disconnect and pump it outdoors where it belongs. The pump discharge point should be in your own yard, at least 20 ft from your home (at a point where it does not impact the neighbors either). If you live on the lake, the discharge can be routed directly to the lake or nearby surface water. Contact our office for more information on discharge configurations as needed.
- If you are unsure of what you have, we offer free inspections and assistance, as well as an “amnesty” and financial assistance program for those systems that are discovered and then corrected timely. Please phone our office at 731-4595 to schedule.
- For more detailed information of the problems associated with sump pumps connected to public sewer systems, check out this link from Golden Valley, MN: <http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/homeyard/utilities/inflow-infiltration.php>

(1) Please note that some washing machines or sinks discharge into sump pumps + then discharge into the public sewer system. Wash machine/sink sump pumps are permitted as long as NO GROUNDWATER enters the sump.