



# MARSHALL COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT

July 12, 2025  
Project Information Meeting





# Welcome and thank you for attending today's public meeting.

- We're here on behalf of the Marshall County Regional Sewer District to provide a project update and walk through where things stand today.
- This presentation will cover the project's background, current status, next steps, and what residents can expect moving forward.
- We understand there are many questions surrounding this project. Today's meeting is focused on sharing the most current and accurate information available.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This meeting is intended to share project information only. While we will not be answering questions during the presentation, staff will be available at information tables until 11:00 AM to discuss how the project may affect your property. Broader public comments can be made during the Marshall County Regional Sewer District's open Board Meetings, held monthly and open to all members of the public.



# Why We're Here

**1**

To share a clear update on the sewer project's progress, scope, and current design status.

**3**

To outline next steps in the project timeline, including design, funding, construction, and customer connections.

**2**

To explain how the proposed system will work and what it means for property owners within the service area.

**4**

To answer questions related to the information presented today and clarify how residents will be engaged throughout the process.





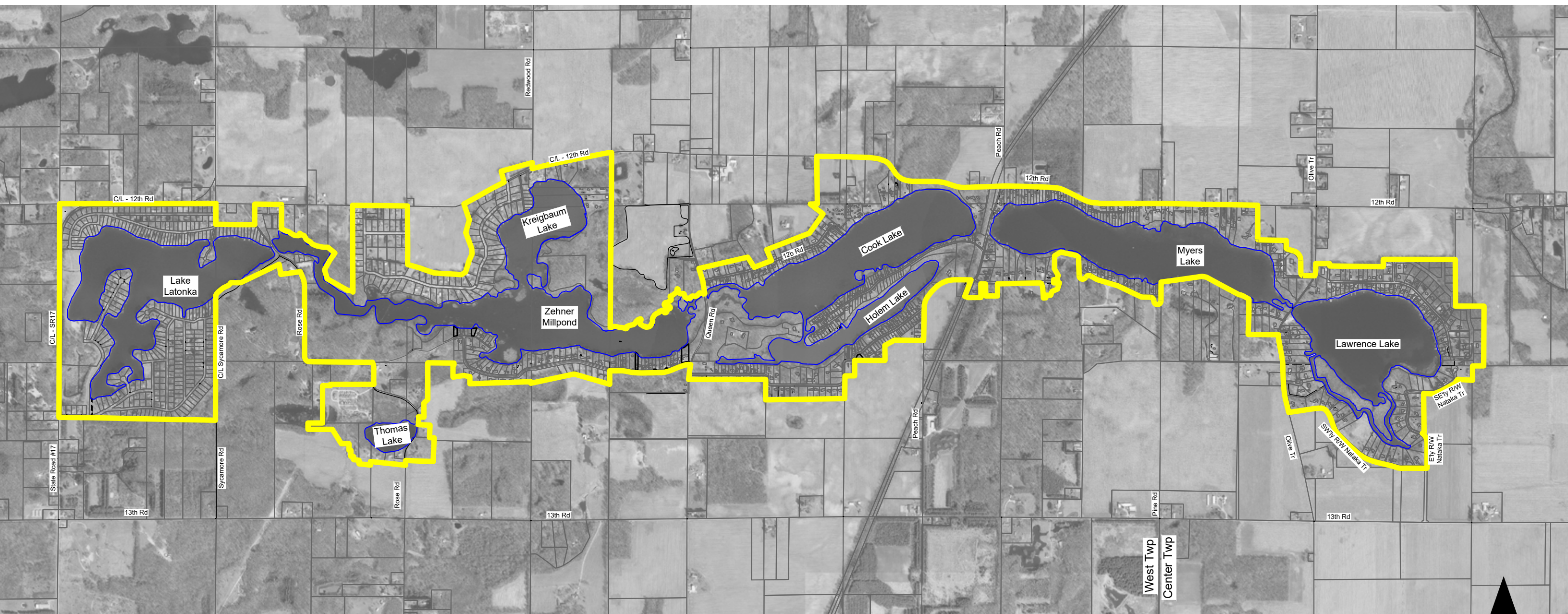
# How We Got Here

- In 2019, local leaders — including the Environmental Health Department, Clean Water Task Force, Board of Health, Commissioners, and County Council — began evaluating long-term wastewater needs in unincorporated areas of Marshall County.
- Their goal: understand the extent of individual on-site system failures and identify a path to protect public health and water quality.
- This multi-agency effort revealed over **2,700 equivalent dwelling units** across **13 unincorporated areas** in need of sustainable wastewater solutions.
- Common challenges included:
  1. **Poor soils and aging or undocumented septic systems**
  2. **Shallow wells located near failing systems**
  3. **Lot sizes too small for safe replacements**
- These findings made clear that many areas had **no viable long-term options** for individual repairs.
- In response, the **Marshall County Regional Sewer District** was formally established to begin addressing these concerns at a community scale.

In 2024, the District began work on detailed design plans for the first phase of the wastewater system.



# Project Service Area







# Current Project Status

**DESIGN PHASE** - The project is currently in the design stage. Approximately 50% of the design for PSA 1 has been completed.

**FUNDING** - The District has submitted the project to Indiana's State Revolving Fund (SRF) program and has completed the initial review process. While it was not selected for immediate funding in the current cycle, the project remains active on the list for potential funding opportunities. The District is continuing to work closely with funding agencies and advocates to strengthen its position in future rounds.

**BIDDING PROCESS** - Once final design is complete and funding is secured, the project will move into the competitive bidding phase, following all state requirements.

**CONSTRUCTION** - Construction is expected to begin after bidding and permitting are completed. The schedule will be shared with residents once funding is finalized and timelines are confirmed.



# How the Sewer Will Be Installed

The system uses a **low-pressure sewer network** to carry wastewater to regional pump stations. Each home will need an individual **grinder pump station**.

**Directional drilling** will be used to install most of the underground pipe — a trenchless method that reduces disruption to yards, driveways, and roads.

This system and method of construction is ideal for lake communities and densely developed areas with established landscaping, and narrow streets.



LOW PRESSURE SEWER SYSTEM



DIRECTIONAL DRILLING



# What is a Grinder Station?

Each home or building in the service area will need a small grinder station.

These stations collect and grind waste from the home or business into a wastewater slurry before pumping it into the pressure sewer system.

The pressure sewer routes to a main pump station which then pumps the waste to the treatment facility

Grinder stations are typically installed near the home sites side property line, near the road and will require an electric service connection from the home.





# Regional Pump Stations

Two **regional pump stations** will be strategically located within the service area.

These stations collect flow from the pressure sewer and move it through larger force mains toward treatment.

Pump station locations are being planned so as to be unobtrusive and will include fencing and landscaping as needed.





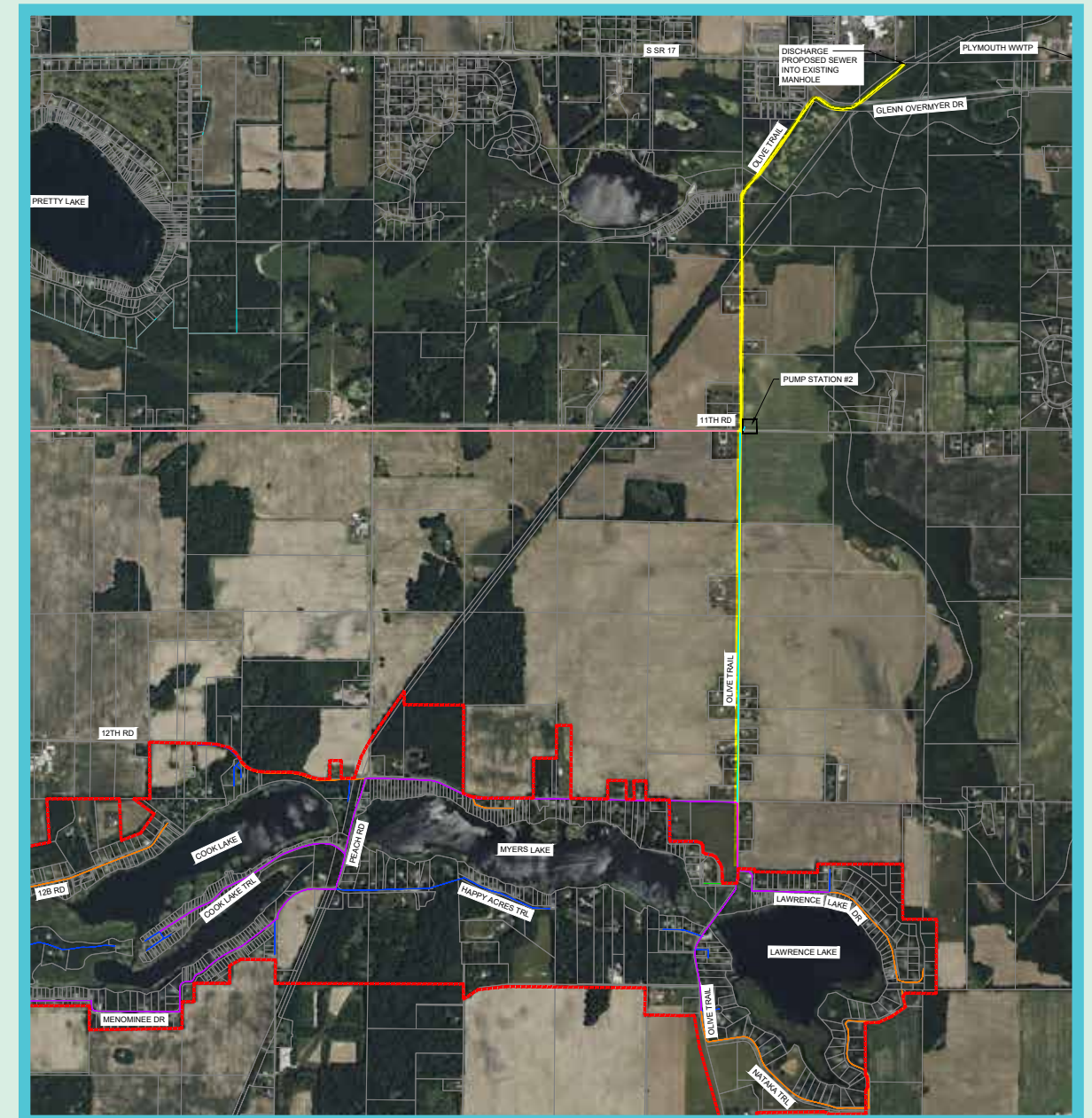
# Where It's Going and How It Gets There

An **8-inch force main** will carry wastewater from regional pump stations to an existing gravity sewer near the treatment facility.

The proposed route has been designed to minimize impacts to properties and existing infrastructure where possible.

The system is proposed to **connect to the City of Plymouth's wastewater treatment plant**, with a planned connection point south of the hospital.

The District officials continue to work with the City relative to the details of an inter-local agreement.



ROUTE MAP



# Where Will the Infrastructure Go?

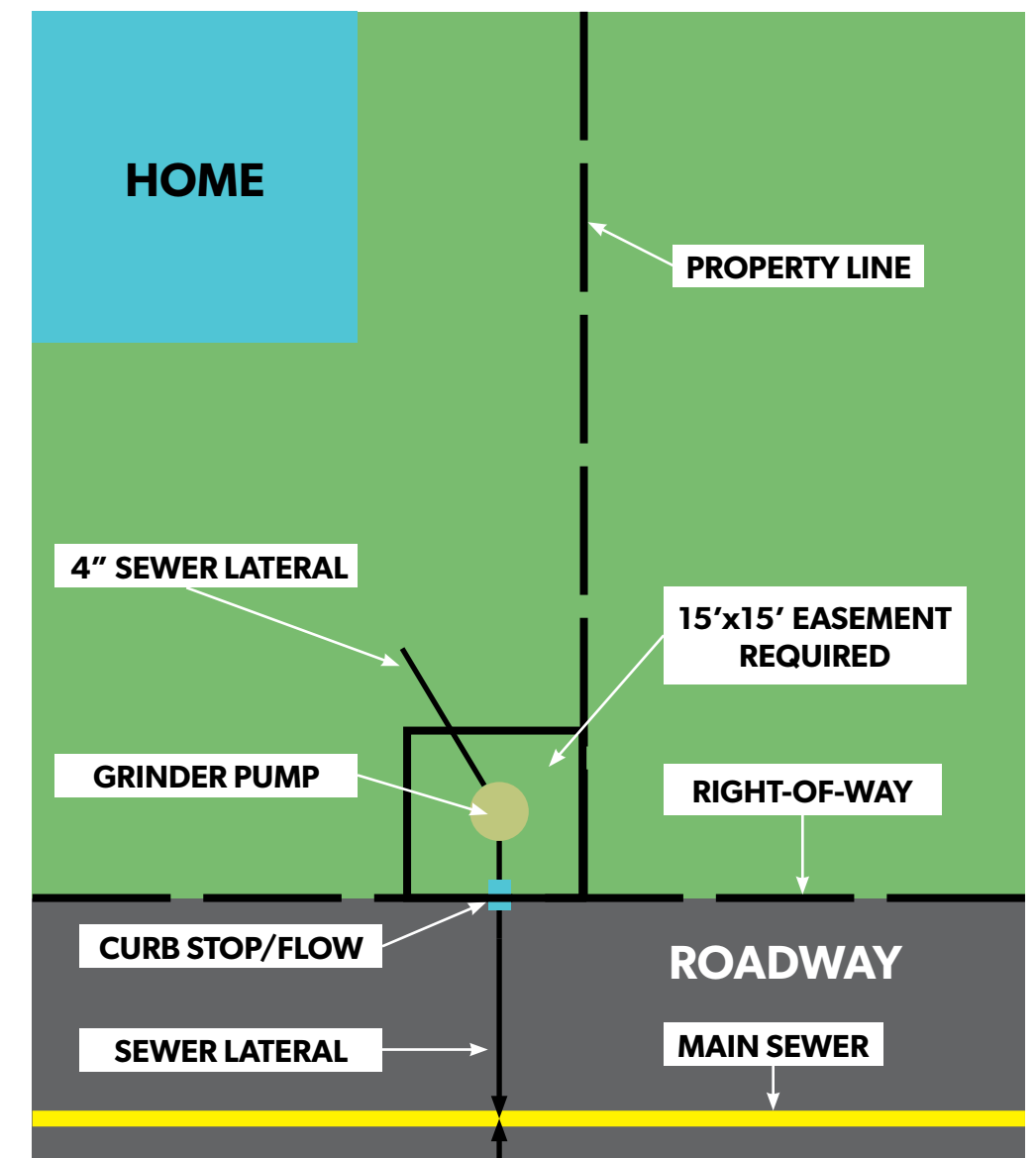
- Most of the system will be installed within public rights-of-way or existing utility easements.
- Easement agreements will include information on property restoration and access requirements.
- Temporary and permanent easements will be needed to install grinder stations on each home site.
- Property owners have already been contacted directly as to the easement needed on their parcel.





# Grinder Station Location Policy

- Grinder stations will ideally be placed in the side yard and within 10 feet of the public right-of-way
- Placement considers electrical access, topography, and service to the home while minimizing impact to existing features.
- If a proposed location presents a hardship or unique circumstance, a variance request process is available.
- The grinder station location policy document (located at [www.marshallcountyr.sd.com/for-residents](http://www.marshallcountyr.sd.com/for-residents)) outlines key placement considerations and how to request a review.







# What About Vacant or Special Properties?

- **Vacant lot policy:** Undeveloped parcels will be reviewed, upon owner request, to determine future connection potential and appropriate fees.
- **Exemption process:** Properties with permitted, functioning septic systems may be eligible for temporary exemption, based on health department review.
- **These policies are designed to be fair, consistent, and protective of both public health and homeowner investment.**

## EXEMPTION PROCESS

As the project enters the permitting phase, notices of the exemption period will be issued.

- Within 60 days, homeowner notifies the District that they intend to file for exemption.
- Within 120 days, homeowner provides inspection and clearance from the Health Department
- Trustee's approve exemption

### INITIAL EXEMPTION

- 10 YEARS
- RENEWABLE FOR TWO - 5-YEAR TERMS

### LARGE PARCEL EXEMPTION

- 10 ACRES MIN. (OFF A BODY OF WATER)
- TWO AREAS SUITABLE FOR ON-SITE SYSTEMS
- DOMESTIC WASTE ONLY
- INSPECTION REQUIRED



# What Will Property Owners Be Responsible For?

Property owners will be responsible for connecting their home or building to the new system once it is installed and operational. This includes:



## Septic System Abandonment

- Existing septic tanks must be properly decommissioned.
- This typically includes:
  1. Pumping out the tank
  2. Punching holes in the bottom
  3. Crushing or collapsing the lid and walls
  4. Backfilling the tank with sand or gravel
- Absorption fields (leach fields) can generally be abandoned in place.



## Electrical Requirements

- A new electrical circuit must be extended from the home to the grinder station control panel.
- Most stations require a **30- or 40-amp dedicated circuit**, depending on the selected model.
- A **disconnect switch** is also required near the panel.



## Plumbing Connection

- A 4-inch gravity lateral will connect the structure to the grinder station.
- Typically constructed with **PVC SDR35 or SDR21 pipe**.
- If required by site conditions, an **ejector or small pressure lateral** (1-1/4" PVC or HDPE) may be used instead.
- **Every property is different** — specific connection needs will be assessed during individual site visits.





# How Will I Know When to Connect?

## NOTIFICATION

## PERMIT & CONNECT

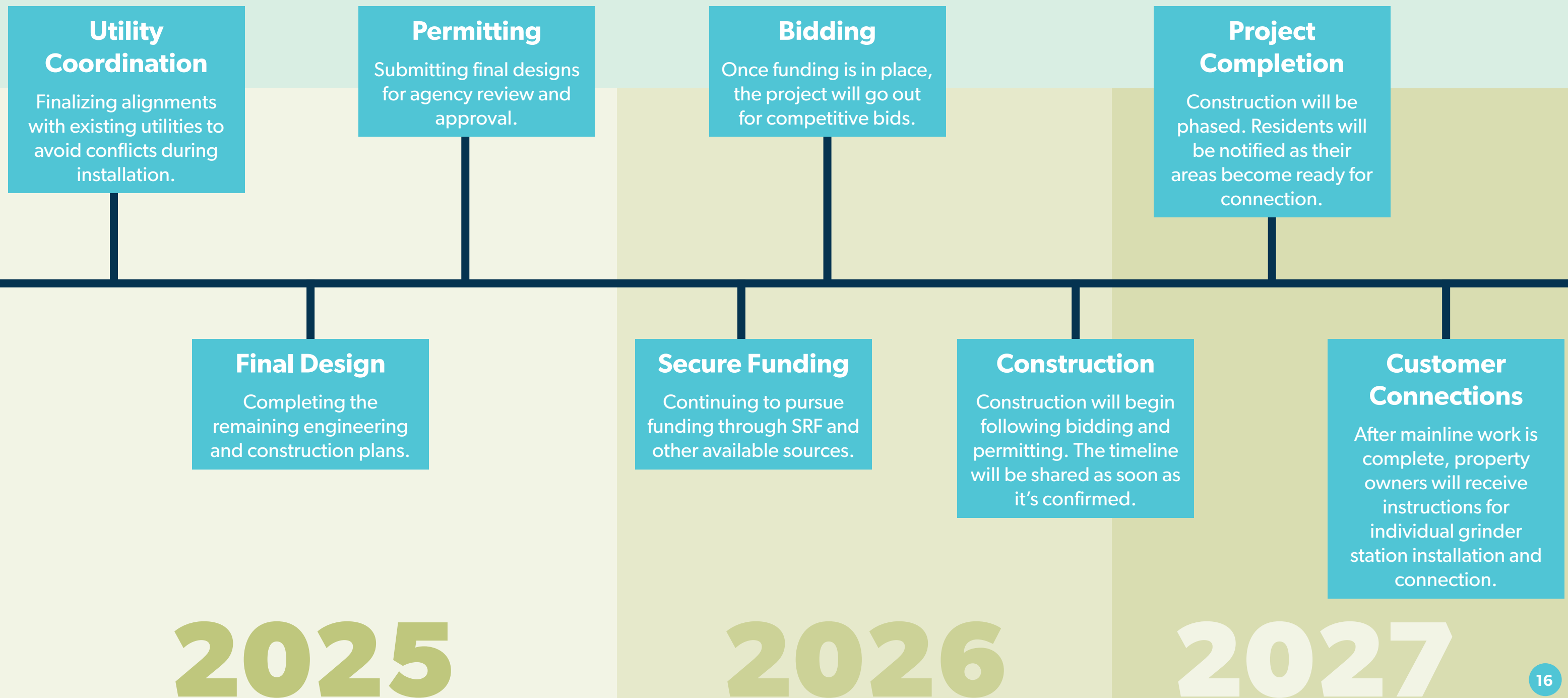
## INSPECTION & APPROVAL

- Property owners will be **notified directly** when it is time to begin the connection process.
- At that point, a **permit will be required** before any connection work can begin.
- Permitting ensures that connections are done safely and meet local health and plumbing codes.
- Once connection work is complete, an **inspection will be scheduled** to verify proper installation.
- After a successful inspection, final documentation will be issued confirming that the property is connected to the system, and the on-site system has been abandoned permanently.



# What Happens Next?

The project is progressing in phases. Here's a look at the key steps ahead:





# THANK YOU

Thank you for taking the time to attend today's meeting and learn more about the project. If you have questions or need assistance, we're here to help and are happy to speak with you after the presentation.



If you have questions related to legal aspects such as easements, please visit the Legal/Easement Table after the presentation.



If you would like to schedule a site visit with an engineer to discuss your property specifically, please visit the Engineering Table to sign up.

**FOR QUESTIONS OUTSIDE TODAY'S SCOPE OR TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT, YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE DISTRICT'S MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS, WHICH ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

**To stay informed and find additional project details, please visit [marshallcountyr.sd.com](https://marshallcountyr.sd.com).**



# CONTACT INFORMATION

**Phone:** 574-200-0049

**Email:** [questions@marshallcountyrds.com](mailto:questions@marshallcountyrds.com)

To stay informed and find additional project details,  
please visit [marshallcountyrds.com](http://marshallcountyrds.com) or scan the QR code below.

