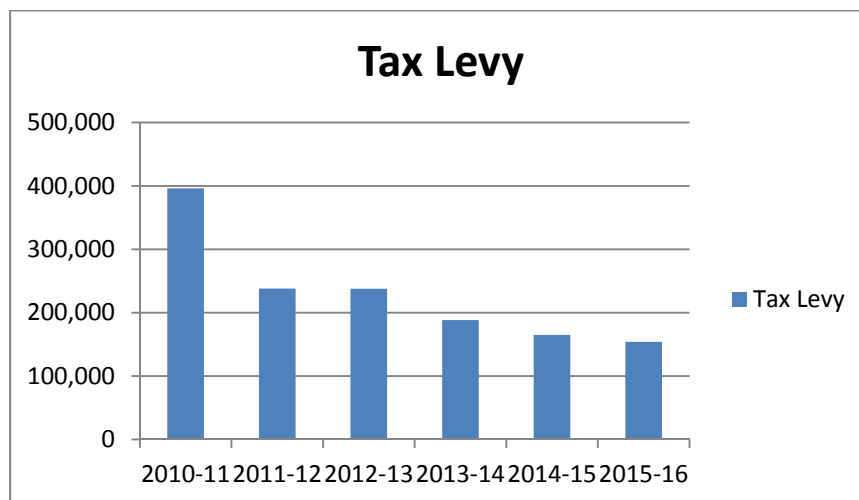


## Fall 2015 Newsletter

**Energy Efficiency Projects:** Over the past year the District has completed a number of projects designed to reduce energy use at the wastewater treatment facility. Wastewater facilities are among the largest electrical energy users nationwide and tremendous efforts have been undertaken to reduce electrical use and facilities carbon footprint. Recently completed projects include the installation of variable frequency drives on the District's aerators to better match the systems dissolved oxygen demand and the installation of a high efficiency aeration blower. Along with system refinements, the District has reduced energy consumption at the facility by approximately 41% over the past year, qualifying for the award of an Illinois Clean Energy Grant of \$116,000. Between the grant and energy savings, the payback for the energy projects is under five years and will help offset an electrical rate increase of nearly 15% that went into effect in May.

**Real Estate Tax Rate Cut Again for 2015:** Since 2011, the District has reduced its tax levy each year in order to reduce that burden on property owners. The total levy has been reduced from \$396,000 in 2010 to \$154,000 in 2015, a 61% reduction. Real estate taxes on a home with an assessed value of \$150,000 in 2010 would have been \$25.65 versus \$11.55 in 2015. Facility operations, maintenance and renewal are funded by rates charged to sewer users and the District adopted a multi-year revenue growth plan to offset increasing costs and to replace aging equipment as the service life is reached. Over the period from 2014-2018, the cost of wastewater services for the homeowners will increase from just over \$1.00 per day to \$1.32 per day.



**Long Term Facility Plan Update:** The District recently accepted a comprehensive facility plan update that provides a roadmap for the District in meeting increasing wastewater service demands due to

growth and new nutrient removal requirements. Based on the comprehensive land use plans for the communities served, this plan forecasts facility expansions based on flow related trigger points which may occur over the twenty-five year planning period. The facility plan was last updated in 2004 and updated 2014 plan is posted at [NMWRD.org](http://NMWRD.org)

**Transparency:** In keeping with the District's commitment to transparency, all of the District's business and fiscal information, including the annual audit, operating budget, appropriations ordinance, meeting agendas, minutes and much more can be found at [NMWRD.org](http://NMWRD.org) under the "Transparency" heading.

**Toilets are not Trashcans!** The District's operations continue to be impacted by some customers who flush inappropriate materials, such as baby wipes, disposable diapers, hygiene products and other materials down the toilet. These products, even those wipes that are labeled as "flushable" do not break down easily and can cause sewers to plug resulting in basement backups. Only poo, pee and toilet paper should be flushed...everything else should go in the trash can.

**Facility Tours:** The District offers educational tours of the wastewater treatment facility, (also known as a Resource Recovery Facility) to interested groups, including school classes, Scouts and others. The processes employed to reclaim water, converting highly polluted wastewater to high quality, safe effluent returned to the environment for reuse is fascinating and includes a range of biologic, chemical and physical properties. School tours are often the first exposure students have to a wide range of careers in the environmental sciences. Contact the District to arrange a tour.

**Sewer Service Bill Payment Options:** The District offers a wide range of payment options for the convenience of its customers. Payments can be submitted via mail to P.O. Box 240, Island Lake, IL 60042 or dropped off at the District Office (113 Timber Trail) or the "after hours" drop box (420 Timber Trail). Payments should be enclosed in the provided return envelope along with the payment coupon. On line payments can be made through the E-Pay process with no additional charges and can be accessed via [NMWRD.org](http://NMWRD.org). Automatic payments (ACH) can be arranged by contacting the District's office. Pre-payment of monthly bills for any desired time frame can also be arranged and will result in a \$1.00 rebate for each bill that is not prepared and mailed, so for example if one were to pre-pay three months, a bill will not be issued until there is an amount due on the account balance. For each of the months that no bill is issued, a \$1.00 credit will be applied to the account. Please contact the District's office to make pre-payment arrangements.

**Staff Engineer Needed:** The District is seeking qualified candidates for a staff engineer position. Qualifications include being a registered P.E. in the State of Illinois with a minimum of five years of progressive experience in the wastewater engineering field. Visit [NMWRD.org](http://NMWRD.org) for full details.