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Update needed on sewer district contracts

by [Rory Doyle](#)

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The Bolivar County Board of Supervisors had a moment of confusion Monday when discussing the next step in the development of new sewage utility districts within the Noblin and Stanton subdivisions.

Bolivar County Administrator Will Hooker alerted the board the bid opening for project contracts would take place at the next board meeting, but confusion stemmed as to whether or not an official agreement showed documentation of the city of Cleveland's commitment to accept the districts' wastewater.

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Equality requires the official written inter-local agreement.

The districts will operate under the envelope of the county, but are directed by board-appointed leaders.

"Board Attorney Linda Coleman needs to provide an updated inter-local agreement for the new structures for the MDEQ," said Hooker.

According to Hooker, Cleveland originally said it would operate the two districts, but later decided it would only accept the waste at a fee to the county.

At that point, the county had no choice but to establish the separate utility districts, which is what Butler Snow law firm in Jackson was hired to assist with.

Hooker explained that Cleveland remains committed to accepting the greywater and that Coleman should be able to update the agreement for MDEQ standards.

Supervisor Larry King (Noblin) asked whether Butler Snow would be responsible for the update, but Supervisor Donny Whitten (Stanton) contended the firm was only hired for assistance in establishing the residential boundaries making up the districts.

"I believe the board only hired Butler Snow to form the districts," said Whitten. "Establishing the local agreement would probably cost extra.

"I'm just asking the board and administrator move forward with this as soon as possible so we can get this done for our citizens," said Whitten.

The board was facing pressure to improve the systems in a timely manner or otherwise lose grant and loan support from the Delta Regional Authority and the MDEQ.

Residents of the Isaac Daniels subdivision in Mound Bayou will also be receiving a new system, but Mound Bayou will accept the wastewater.

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