



Satisfying a Thirsty Community

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Sandbranch Development and Water Supply Corporation Community Meeting
 Wayside Missionary Baptist Church
 4128 S. Belt Line Rd., Seagoville, TX 75159
 3 p.m., Sunday, October 27, 2019

Q: What is the Sandbranch Development and Water Supply Corporation (SDWSC)

A: *The Sandbranch Development Water Supply Corporation (SDWSC) was incorporated on March 16, 2016. Pursuant to the Texas Water Code, the purpose of a water supply corporation is to provide water supply, sewer service, or both for a municipality, a private corporation, an individual, or a military camp or base. The SDWSC is governed by a board of directors, all of whom must be property owners in the community. In 2016, the board secured a \$30,000 USDA SEARCH grant to contract with a professional engineering services to identify the best method for bringing water and sewer services to Sandbranch. Now that the study is complete, the board is taking all steps necessary to operate as a fully functioning water supply corporation on behalf of the Sandbranch Community by seeking \$6.5 million in grants to fund a water and wastewater system described in the study. The board meets regularly on the third Monday of each month to conduct business and plan for the future.*

Q: Is the Sandbranch Development and Water Supply Corporation the same as Sandbranch...everybody's community?

A: *No. These two groups are different but both work on behalf of Sandbranch. Sandbranch...everybody's community! (SEC) was organized as a 501c (3) non-profit to assist in bringing water/wastewater infrastructure and social services to residents of Sandbranch. SEC supports all aspects of the ongoing water rights efforts in Sandbranch; coalesces and communicates with residents about the water rights process; provides business, education, legal, administrative, and public relations support and counsel to the SDWSC; and spearheads the Strategic Vision and Plan for Improvements to the Sandbranch Community to help shape and revitalize the community in the future.*

Q: How does a person become a member of the SDWSC board of directors?

A: *Board members must be legal property owners in Sandbranch. They are screened and appointed by the current sitting board of directors.*



Satisfying a Thirsty Community

Q: Where and when does the SDWSC meet?

A: *The board of directors hold regularly scheduled meetings at 7:30 p.m. the third Monday of each month at Tyler Street United Methodist Church, 927 W 10th St, Dallas, TX 75208.*

Q: Why doesn't the SDWSC meet at Mt. Zion Baptist Church?

A: *After Pastor Keahey's death, the board of directors unanimously agreed that in the grief and aftermath of his passing, it would be best to have a new start by meeting in a new location, so they accepted Tyler Street Methodist Church's offer to meet at their site.*

Q: Since Pastor Keahey died, how will the SDWSC continue to operate?

A: *Our board of directors and team of volunteers who have been supporting Pastor Keahey's efforts to bring water to Sandbranch are deeply saddened by his death and the death of his family members. Although we are devastated, we are not defeated, and we intend to work with even greater diligence to solve the water problem in Sandbranch as a testament to Pastor Keahey's dedication to a community he loved and served for so many years.*

Q: How much will a water and wastewater system cost?

A: *The estimate to build a water and wastewater system is \$6.5 million.*

Q: What is the SDWSC doing now to pay for a water and wastewater system to Sandbranch?

A: *In September 2019, the SDWSC applied to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for a planning grant of \$1.48 million which represents 25% of the cost of building a system. The TWDB will announce grant recipients in late 2019 or early 2020.*

Q: If the SDWSC gets the grant, what will the TWDB grant money be used for and will SDWSC board members receive any of those funds?

A: *No, SDWSC board members will NOT receive any TWDB funds. The TWDB grant money can ONLY be used to pay for the following as specified in the grant application:*

- *Legal fees*
- *Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CNN) application and fees*
- *Preliminary engineer report updates to meet TWDB requirements*
- *TWDB applications assistance*
- *Environmental clearances, if needed to meet TWDB requirements*
- *Water conservation plan, if needed*
- *Preliminary topographic surveying for Base Flood Elevations verifications*
- *Fiscal and issuance cost to process funds*
- *Contingencies*



Satisfying a Thirsty Community

Q: When can we expect a water and wastewater system to be built?

A: *There is no hard and fast answer to this question. The system will be built contingent upon plans being completed and funding secured from both the TWDB and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The projected start timeline is between three and five years. Again, this is ONLY a projection since the project is subject to many administrative and bureaucratic requirements before work can begin.*

Q: Will I have a water bill if a water and wastewater system is built in Sandbranch?

A: *Residents who choose to tap into the water and wastewater system will have a water bill.*

Q: Can the SDWSC help me in getting a trailer or house built on land I own in Sandbranch?

A: *No. The SDWSC is completely focused on building, operating, and maintaining a water and wastewater system in Sandbranch.*

Q: What can Sandbranch residents and property owners do to support the efforts of the SDWSC?

A: *We are asking residents and property owners to (1) be patient with this process; (2) complete any requests for information that will help us get a USDA grant to build the system; (3) vote “yes” on Proposition 2 in the November 5 election; and (4) pray for our continued success.*

Q: What is Proposition 2 and why should I vote “yes” for it?

A: *Proposition 2 provides additional funding to the TWDB to help low income areas with water needs. How it will read on the ballot: “The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board in an amount not to exceed \$200 million to provide financial assistance for the development of certain projects in economically distressed areas.*

What it means: This would allow the Texas Water Development Board to issue bonds to fund water and wastewater infrastructure projects in areas where median household income is at or below 75% of the statewide median income level. Since Sandbranch fits that description, the proposition could help the community get additional funding for its water and wastewater project.

Q: Who do we contact with questions about the project?

A: *Contact Mary Nash, President of the SDWSC Board of Directors, 469-438-6601.*