

THE BUBBLER

Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Company Newsletter

April 2018

30 Day Notice and Lien Procedures

Yearly Shareholder fees are mailed out January 1st of every year. They are due and payable on February 15th. The BLSMWC office staff this year also made phone calls to Shareholders in hopes of avoiding a late penalty. We offered over the phone Credit Card payments with NO conveyance fee.

On the last day of February all outstanding balances were considered Past Due, and a late fee of \$65 was assessed prior to February meter reads. This bill went out in the end of February billing cycle.

Those payments were due and payable on March 15th, but are still considered PAST DUE.

On March 20th we send out 30 day notice letters. These letters give the Shareholder yet another 30 days to pay their Past Due fees and penalties.

On the 30th day of that notice, the BLSMWC Watermaster will hang tags of NOTICE OF SHUT OFF 48 HRS on the front door of the home.

By May 15st the BLSMWC Staff has made EVERY POSSIBLE attempt to collect the yearly fees or make arrangements. As stated on our invoice, liens are filed on May 15th.

Liens are prepared by the BLSMWC office staff and are notarized. They are then hand delivered and filed with Calaveras County. Calaveras County will mail the Shareholder, and BLSMWC, a copy of the lien with a filing number at the top right corner of the document. An additional \$150 is added to the Past Due account for lien filing fees. This is a non-refundable charge.

Liens are prepared with the most current information that we have. By this time, 3 letters or bills have been run through the postal service. If an address has changed and mail returned, we make every attempt to find a new address. Seldom do we have a dead end on a change of address, but every now and then we do.

It is imperative that anytime there is a change of address or phone number that you inform our office. Not only for billing purposes, but in the case of an emergency at your home here in Blue Lake Springs.

For all billing questions, please call our office (209)795-7025

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HIGH PRESSURE POLICY

High Pressure Policy:

Number 8 of our Rules and Regulations state: All owners shall be required to accept such conditions of water pressure and service as are provided by the distribution system at the point of connection, and the Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Company shall not be liable for any damage arising from high or low water pressure.

Additionally, the service shall be equipped by the owner with a pressure regulator set to 60 psi.

The regulator shall be installed, owned and maintained by the owner and at the owner's expense. The regulator shall be on the owner's side of the service.

Please check your house plumbing to see if a regulator is installed on your house.

If you have questions please call the BLSMWC office at (209)795-7025



General Manager's Report

Dear Shareholders,

Precipitation totals are climbing for the year due to much needed rain in March. Hopefully this rain will give the pine trees enough sap to fight off the bark beetle attack that is sure to come this year.

March Usage

March usage was higher than previous years. Here are the numbers.

2013 3,066,000 million gallons

2014 2,973,000

2015 2,587,000

2016 2,488,000

2017 2,942,000

2018 3,598,000

As you can see, March 2018 was quite a bit higher than the 5 previous years. Some of this may be caused by a delayed ski season, and more people in the area. We had a increase of 17% over the 2013 usage for March. No water was saved. 2013 is the year the State Water Board uses for Drought comparison.

Conservation

In spite of recent precipitation, please remember to use water wisely. Just be aware of your use, and try to minimize waste.

Winterize your house when you leave. Leave proper instructions for shutting off your cabin's water.

USDA Water Distribution Improvement Project

Plans are being finalized for our project which will go out to bid this month. We will be installing new mains in the roadway, and new service boxes in the front of lots, and eliminating the old smaller mains in the back and front of some lots. This project will affect many of you shareholders in Blue Lake Springs. You have already been contacted in reference to your new service box location for your input.

If you have requested a change in the service box location, and have not heard back from us, please contact the office to make sure the change was made on the plans. You will be required to connect your house to the newly installed service box. The old mains will be kept active so there should be no water outages during construction unless planned, and they will be of short duration. You will be given a sufficient amount of time to connect, and our office can help you with a list of contractors who can do the work. Construction will not be starting until early July, so there is plenty of time to plan your connection, probably a year at minimum.

Pressure Reducing Valves

All homeowners are required to install a pressure reducing valve at their house. It's common plumbing practice to install this valve at the time of construction, usually located after the house shutoff valve. This valve protects the house plumbing against high pressure which may occur because of the elevation changes in our mountain community.

If you are not sure if you have a pressure reducing valve in your house plumbing, please contact your local plumbing contractor. He can tell you if you need to install one and how much it will cost. It's important that you check this because the Water Company will not be responsible for damage caused by high pressure: Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Company Rules and Regulations # 8.

Irrigation Systems

Spring is here and the weather is warming up. Time to check your irrigation system for damage over the winter.

That's all for now.

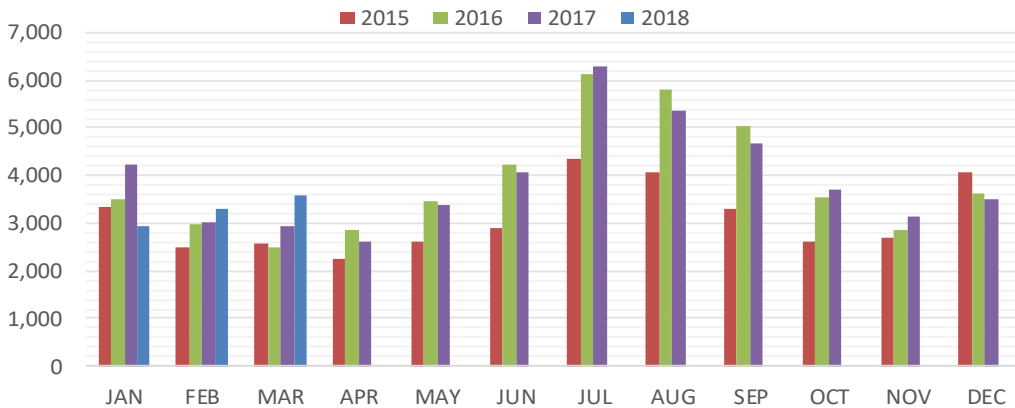
Dave

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March Usage Chart

TOTAL USAGE

(4 YEARS)



Long Range Planning Committee

The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) focus over the past month has been finalizing the 2018-2021 Cash Flow Analysis. This will be utilized to determine annual revenue required to meet total expenses as we move forward with the USDA Capital Improvement Project. This is also an annual submittal requirement to the USDA. As mentioned last month, there are numerous factors that must be forecasted including the number of meters installed and connected each year, interim loan interest payments during the construction period, USDA scope that we have funded up to construction and eligible for reimbursement, revenue required to meet our annual USDA loan payments, required USDA reserves, and other potential liens that must be considered. Based on the above factors, our first annual USDA loan payment of \$437K will be due in 2020, at which time this expense will be factored into our rate structure.

Have an idea?

The Bubbler is published to keep Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Company shareholders informed about issues and upcoming events. The Bubbler is a "monthly" newsletter and comes out following a regular scheduled Board Meeting so that we can keep you up to date on the most current information.

If you would like to submit an article or suggest ideas for improvement, please contact:

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President's Report

Shareholders:

After the recent rain and snow, the water watching experts have declared that even though we received a fruitful rainfall, the drought still exists. I have yet to hear anyone deny that the drought, or better, the effects of the drought have disappeared. The willingness to conserve and make better use of water continues because it is ok to do so.

The message: **CONSERVATION** remains in place.

The Project Process

The bidding process for the overall Project of bringing our system wide delivery service up to date will begin in a week or so and conclude in late May or early June. I mention this now, as initially you will see construction/contractors throughout Blue Lake Springs. BLSMWC staff will accompany the contractors as they survey the area where the work is to be done. This is part of the pre-bidding process. Once the bids are authored and answered, the returned bids will be rated and awarded. Contractors will be selected to perform the actual work. At the current pace, I would anticipate expecting the actual groundwork to start in mid/late June.

Be Vigilant

Construction projects can draw those that have nothing to do with the event. These can be drifters or unlicensed wannabes that pass themselves off as a member of a working crew.

If there is ANY doubt in your mind as to the authenticity of anyone who offers services or alleges to be attached to a working crew or asks for money or seeks any form of remuneration, I ask that you call the Calaveras County Sheriff and the BLSMWC ... in that order.

Your Property

If you are wondering if your property is affected by the Project and are unsure for whatever reason as to what is happening, I would ask that you call BLS MWC@ (209) 795-7025 and ask. I can assure you that NOW is better than AFTER the work is done.

I Need to Say Thank You!!

Many of our customers have done an excellent job making better use of water. As more and more meters are installed, the tracking of overall water use becomes more of an exact science. As you know BLSMWC is mandated by the State of California to account for ANY distribution of water so to those that CONSERVE, keep it up and treat yourself to a cookie.

Reminder

The Annual Meeting is on June 2 at 8:30AM at Snowflake Lodge

Yes, I know it's early.

Enjoy Spring which is going to commence at any moment

Bob Maginnis

BLSMWC Board President

