

THE BUBBLER

Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Company Newsletter

December 2018

Shareholder Fee Invoices

Dear Shareholders:

Your yearly Shareholder invoice will be in the mail soon!!

Please read your invoice thoroughly, make any address changes, sign, and return the voucher along with the proper payment in the return envelope provided.

Remember that all payments are due on or before February 15, 2019. Please ensure your payment is in the office on or before that date to avoid the **\$65 late penalty.** After March 15, 2019, interest at 1.5% per month will be charged on all balances. You may call our office and pay with a credit/debit card, (at no charge to you.) You will ***not*** be able to pay your bill online. If you cannot make your payment by February 15th, please contact our office **BEFORE** this date to make payment arrangements.

If you have questions?? Call (209)795-7025 and ask for Carrissa

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Fire Hydrant Installation



LRPC

The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) met on December 8th to review several topics that will be discussed with the Board of Director's (BOD) at the January 2019 Meeting. A summary of the topics is as follows:

- ◆ BLSMWC staff has proposed several scope requests be added to the USDA Construction Project. Many of these address safety and liability related tasks that were not included in the USDA Preliminary Engineering Report (PER). The estimated cost of these tasks is within the total USDA allocated budget, however, if approved they will impact our contract contingency reserve. The LRPC requested the staff and MC Engineering review these added scope items with Mozingo (construction contractor) to firm up the cost estimates and work to mitigate potential schedule impacts. They will present their findings to the board at the January 2019 BOD Meeting.
- ◆ A revised Asset Management Plan Proposal, received from MC Engineering on November 15th was reviewed. Based on prior discussions with MC Engineering, the proposal included a new task for GIS Database Development which will augment the Asset Inventory. A decision was made by the LRPC to continue progression of the plan in phases, with the Asset Inventory Update and GIS Database Development Tasks included in Phase 1 at a not-to-exceed amount of \$20K. Once Phase 1 is completed, a progress meeting will be held to thoroughly review these products as well as the scope in the remaining tasks before proceeding forward.
- ◆ The committee reassessed the USDA eligible reimbursable costs and their impacts on interim loan interest. The consensus was to recommend continuing to hold off on requesting reimbursement of any MC Engineering and BLS-MWC internal costs on the USDA Project as long as possible to reduce our interest liabilities. We will submit only construction cost reimbursements and continue to monitor our financial position monthly as we progress through 2019. We are currently updating our interim loan interest estimate based on a revised draw down schedule which will be presented to the board in January.
- ◆ The Reserves Fund Policy and Reserves Operating Procedure were reviewed with final recommendations incorporated. The documents will be presented to the board for approval at the January 2019 meeting.
- ◆ The LRPC further discussed the meter usage study data and rate structure. Based on multi-year analysis through Sept. 2018, it was determined that the current monthly usage allocation and rates are closely in-line with the study data. The plan will be to continue collecting and analyzing usage data with increased sample sizes throughout 2019 as the remaining meters continue to be installed.



General Managers Report

Dear Shareholders,

The Holidays are here and so is the cold weather. We have had a little rain and snow, and some lower temperature days, so please remember to winterize your cabin.

Our Infrastructure Improvement Project is progressing nicely, with water main, and new service box installation going on at Russell Dr., David Lee and Linda Dr. Remember, if you see a new service box next to your property pin, you don't have to worry about connecting to it until 6 months after the main has been pressure tested and sanitized. We will let you know by letter when the 6 month period starts.

Please open **all letters** you receive from the Water Company.

November Water Usage

The usage for November was a little higher than last year by 340,000 gallons. This increase probably means more people came up to enjoy Thanksgiving, which is great because we have plenty of water available.

I'll run down the numbers.

November

2013 3,822,000 gallons

2014 2,946,000

2015 2,710,000

2016 2,842,000

2017 3,158,000

2018 3,498,000

We saved 8% over 2013 November usage, the Drought comparison year for reporting to the State.

Wells Drawdown

This refers to the feet of water in the well above the pump intake. Our main well #3 has 156 feet of water above the intake, which usually tops out at 170 feet maximum, meaning, we have plenty of water to supply all of Blue Lake Springs for the Winter if we have to.

Treatment Plant Improvements in 2018

We made some improvements to our Treatment Plant in 2018:

Security Fence

We improved our old chain link fence around the perimeter of the Plant.

6 inch Butterfly Valves

We replaced 5 leaky control valves in the Plant.

Heaters

Upgraded 2 space heaters in the T. P.

Backwash Pump

Rebuilt Backwash pump in T.P.

That's all for now, have a great Christmas and New Year, and don't forget to call the office, or the emergency number with any questions or problems.

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Dave

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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

Welcome to the cold of winter and the season of giving. We have gotten snow, which is pretty to look at, but you must be diligent where your water supply is concerned. If you are not full time or you are away from the home for more than 2-3 days, WINTERIZE. Save yourself a NextDoor search for a specialist that works on removing soggy rugs, repairing water-soaked floors or replacing busted pipes by simply WINTERIZING.

Turn off the water supply to the home, drain the interior pipes, drain your hoses and put them inside and drain the faucets. Flush toilets drain the holding tanks and for extra protection place some additional $\frac{1}{2}$ / $\frac{1}{2}$ water/antifreeze where water gathers and in the sink drains, as water collects in the drain elbow. Everyone has three opinions about the use of diluted antifreeze. I would offer that it is cheap insurance and is great for peace of mind. As the Winter passes and it will, and Spring comes in, there will be a few homes that suffer from water damage and leaks if you take the time to WINTERIZE properly. You may also find WINTERIZING tips on our website: www.blsmwc.com. If you are not sure on how to turn-off your home water supply, please give the Water Company a call and we will have a Watermaster show you.

The Project Construction continues, and adverse weather will at times get in its way.

Again, if you are unsure what impact the project is going to have on your property,

Call the Water Company. Don't wait....

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Members of the Board for volunteering their time and their commitment for being involved. There is more to a Board position than a meeting every other month.

Thanks to the Company staff who work hard and are consistently available to help our customers...

And a final thanks to all of our customers for continuing to CONSERVE.

Enjoy the Holiday

Bob Maginnis, P

BLSMWC Board President



November Usage Chart

