

THE BUBBLER

Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Company Newsletter



Statewide Summary of Snow Water Content

Current Regional Snowpack from Automated Snow Sensors

% of April 1 Average / % of Normal for This Date



Statewide Average: 36% / 175%

Updated 08/12/2019 03:18 PM

NORTH	
Data as of June 10, 2019	
Number of Stations Reporting	27
Average snow water equivalent (inches)	7.3
Percent of April 1 Average (%)	25
Percent of normal for this date (%)	176

CENTRAL	
Data as of June 10, 2019	
Number of Stations Reporting	38
Average snow water equivalent (inches)	10.9
Percent of April 1 Average (%)	39
Percent of normal for this date (%)	178

SOUTH	
Data as of June 10, 2019	
Number of Stations Reporting	25
Average snow water equivalent (inches)	10.9
Percent of April 1 Average (%)	45
Percent of normal for this date (%)	175

STATE	
Data as of June 10, 2019	
Number of Stations Reporting	90
Average snow water equivalent (inches)	9.8
Percent of April 1 Average (%)	36
Percent of normal for this date (%)	175

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LRPC Report

For those shareholder's unable to attend the Annual Meeting on June 8th, or those who did attend and would like to review the details of the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) presentation, we encourage you to access it through the BLSMWC website at <http://blsmwc.com/>. If you have any questions, comments or concerns related to the LRPC status, please contact the office staff and a committee member will respond.

In summary the LRPC presentation addressed the status and future plans on the following topics:

- The advisory role of LRPC
- Financial Planning & Cash Flow Status, taking into account:
 - USDA Interim Loan
 - Retro meter installs impact on cash flow
 - Additional USDA Project Scope requests
- Reserves Fund Policy & Operating Procedure
- Asset Management Plan
- Meter Usage Studies
- Water Rate Design & Structure
- Bi-Monthly Electronic Billing & Payment Process
- Shareholder Service Line Replacements

Over the past year, the LRPC's primary focus has been:

- Providing oversight support to the BLSMWC Mgmt. and Staff on the USDA Project
- On-going analysis of our long term cash flow
- Implementing and documenting a formal process for managing reserves
- Long term asset mgmt. planning; including development of a formal Asset Mgmt. Plan
- Performing analysis of meter usage studies and our future rate structure

As we move forward through 2019, our primary focus will be:

- Analyzing impacts to long term cash flow, budgets and rates based on the following
 - Meter installs (income resulting from non-metered to metered base rate changes)
 - Future rate structure changes under consideration
 - Implementing the Shareholder Service Line Replacement Loan Program
 - Transitioning to new bi-monthly electronic billing and payment process
 - Potentially adding New USDA Project Scope requests from BLSMWC Staff (*within our current total USDA budget*)
- Finalizing and formally implementing the
 - Asset Management Plan
 - Bi-Monthly Electronic Billing & Payment Process

Water Rate Structure Design (taking into account on-going meter usage study levels and trends)



GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT

Shareholders,

It's time to water again, so please check your irrigation systems for leaks and timer settings.

Part of our USDA Project is to update all service boxes that already have a main in the street from past projects. This update includes a new valve, meter and check valve, along with a pressure reducing valve in a separate round box. The meters are being activated now and you will be billed for the water you use every two months if you use over 700 cubic feet of water. These meters contain no moving parts and are read remotely by radio. You can check your meter by opening the little plastic door on top.

The meter reads in cubic feet, and you can check your usage by reading the numbers, and then checking again the next day or week and subtracting the past reading from the present reading. Our rate now is \$1.60 per 100 cubic feet. 100 cubic feet is about 750 gallons. This fee is separate from the base rate which covers the operating cost of the water company.

You can check for leaks by making sure no water is being used in the house, and looking at your meter display. If there is a leak, the numbers will be turning, and there will be a + sign on the display.

If you have questions on your meter, please call the office.

USAGE

Water usage for May was about average for May for the last 6 years.

Here are the numbers:

May

2019 3,431,000 gallons

2018 3,114,000

2017 3,378,000

2016 3,479,000

2015 2,602,000

2014 4,152,000

2013 4,341,000

We have saved 21% compared to May 2013, the State drought comparison year.

Please remember to use water wisely.

David Hicks

General Manager

Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Co.

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Presidents Report

Thank you to those that attended the Annual Meeting of the BLSMWC on June 8th.

Everyone got to hear the latest from the Project's contract Construction Supervisor, Mark Franz, that discussed the progress of the installation of new piping and system improvements. According to Mark, from Mozingo, the overall project is about 35% complete and should be 100% finished by June 2020.

In addition to the piping and delivery improvements there will be 83 new Fire Hydrants. These new hydrants could not come at a better time. As the project crews work their way through each affected neighborhood, the hydrants will be added accordingly. The Fire Department is thrilled. Speaking of hydrants The next time you speak with your property insurance agent make a note to mention where you are to the nearest hydrant, if not asked. One of the current Board of Director members mentioned to his insurance company that a hydrant was added on his street and his premium was reduced.

Mark also mentioned that the staffing of the crews working reside in Calaveras County and a number near Arnold. They are thrilled to be working locally and it shows. The crews are laying 600-900 feet of pipe a day and are working 6 days a week.

Tom Schneider, the Chair of the Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC) gave everyone an update on some of the Committee's progress, specifically in the areas of creating the Reserve Accounts and future funding matters.

As you know by now, the Water Company is initiating a new billing system and will start on January 1, 2020. Every customer will be enrolled into a bi-monthly billing, with the first bill arriving in early March, for the charges accrued during January and February of 2020.

The following 2020 billing dates will be at the end of:

February, April, June, August, October, and December, for a total of six invoices.

If you are on a meter, your billing will include a base rate and a usage rate. If you are not on a meter, your 2020 annual bill will be divided into 6 equal bi-monthly payments AND if you go on a meter, during 2020 any/all necessary adjustment(s) will be made.

The water company is exploring auto-payment options that are available to the consumer: Bill Pay, from your Bank's checking account, or auto pay, attached to your personal credit card.

Over the past three years, we have been asking for your email address. This will aid us in developing a master billing data base. If you haven't given your email address to the water company, please endeavor to do so. If, for personal reasons you do not wish to share your email address, we will use the USPS. We have six more months to prepare and enact the billing process and the more prep work we can do up front, the better.

I am sure you have read about PG&E's plan to shut off power in those areas where there presents an immediate or pending fire danger. They will base their decision on current weather conditions which includes, rapid changes in wind patterns, proposed ground temps and other criteria with the intent to shut off power to try and prevent a disaster. BLSMWC presently has an operating plan to secure a generator in order to cover any disruptions. Considering PG&E's extended plans to cut power in or near any area that would contribute to a disaster, the water company is moving forward to purchase its own generator. In the past we had an on call contract with a generator provider, but life has changed.

The election results are in: Thanks to the few that voted, (very few)! Dan Crosby and Bill Cover were chosen to replace Jay Brethauer and Mark Woltering.

Thank you to both Jay and Mark for their time and commitment. Welcome to Dan and Bill. Andy Rich was re-elected, congrats Andy

The summer is upon all and the water company has two messages: Enjoy the beauty of nature, and conservation is still very "IN"!

Bob Maginnis

President, (again)

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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