

Quarterly Update
Steamboat Lake Water & Sanitation District
January 2013

Dear District Member,

It has been some time since the Board has shared Quarterly Updates on a regular basis. Starting with this issue, we will be sending Updates with each of our quarterly invoices in order to keep District Members informed of the issues we are facing and the work that the Board is doing.

A little background information should be useful. We have three wells in our District:

- Well A Also known as the Guest Well. It is the original well that was developed in 1972 and was the sole water provider for the District until 2002. It is as good a producer as our main well, but supplies only about 30% of our water because of its age and deteriorated condition. It does not need iron treatment.
- Well B Also known as the Lot 178 well. It's our main producing well, providing about 70% of our water. When it was brought on line in 2009, it required an iron treatment plant that was expensive to build and is expensive to maintain.
- Well C Also known as the Doubec Well. It was brought on line in 2002. Because it is a low producer and has a fairly high iron content, it is used only as an emergency backup well.

The major drought we experienced this past summer was tough on our water resources. Our water usage in the 2012 summer months was 37% greater than the two previous summer averages though no new homes have been added. To keep up with the increased demand we had to utilize Wells B and C much more than usual. By the end of the summer our main producing Well B needed extensive maintenance and had to be taken off-line the entire month of October for a major overhaul.

We have 139 homes tapped into our water and sewer system. With no new homes in the past four years, no new revenues and the 37% increased consumption we saw this past summer, there is obviously a strain on our resources. The Board has responded to the difficult economic times of the last six years by putting capital improvement projects on hold and doing the best we can to provide cost effective system maintenance. We must now find ways to make our infrastructure even more efficient and to improve on water conservation.

We have met with our District Engineer, McLaughlin Water Engineers to discuss how best to manage the infrastructure we have. Here are the priorities we have identified:

- Maximize the capabilities of the original Well A. It can produce as much water as the main Well B, without the need for iron treatment. After forty years of use its condition has deteriorated to the point that we actually need to re-drill the well (right next to it's current location) and upgrade controls. Estimated cost is \$160,000.
- Pursue funding options for replacing Well A.
- Put in place some simple iron treatment options at emergency backup Well C to optimize our use of the well. Estimated cost is approximately \$10,000.
- Implement more precise data monitoring programs at the well sites to help manage our water supply. Estimated cost approximately \$5,000.
- Work with the Home Owners Association to update guidelines on new landscaping.
- Review our Rules and Regulations regarding water conservation. We are learning from our efforts this past summer and have been surveying surrounding communities to learn how they are dealing with water shortages.
- Improve our website to provide timely information.

- We have received many requests from District members for water meters to provide a more fair assessment of service fees based on actual consumption. Since 2003 the Board has issued approximately 25 water meters as new homes were being built, so we need to retrofit about 115 homes. Use of water meters is a proven strategy in water conservation and detection of water leaks. Unfortunately, the estimated cost is approximately \$125,000 so we will have to find funding if we decide to pursue this project..

After a few years of minimizing cash expenditures and faced with possible continued drought conditions, the issues listed above have taken on a new urgency. As we work through these issues, we will keep you all informed via our Quarterly Updates and special mailings if necessary. Your input is greatly appreciated so please feel free to contact us or attend one of our monthly meetings. The meeting schedule is posted on our website (see address below).

Thanking you in advance for your continued conservation efforts,

Steamboat Lake Water and Sanitation District Board,

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