Quarterly Update
Steamboat Lake Water & Sanitation District
March 2013

Dear District members,
We are pleased to report that we are well into planning for the replacement of our original 1972 Guest Well. Because it has been in use for 40 years, and until 2009 was our sole source of water, it has deteriorated considerably and our District Engineer has been recommending replacement for quite some time. We have applied for a grant from the State of Colorado to help pay for this project and will know the outcome in early June. If all goes well, the replacement well will be on-line by Fall 2013.

While developing a more efficient infrastructure system is important, we can implement water conservation measures immediately, at no cost. We all know that snowfall this winter has not been enough to adequately replenish ground water supplies. Communities all around the state are preparing for another summer of drought conditions. Many have already put water restrictions in place; Denver Water has declared a Stage 2 drought, restricting watering to twice a week.

As a Board, we are concerned, especially with our experience of last summer where water supply demand increased by 37% during the summer months and water treatment costs increased by 56% compared to average costs over the past three years. This is an especially hard hit because no new homes have been added to our system since 2009, so we have no new sources of income to cover these increases. We are not able to separate water used for landscaping from water used for domestic purposes (bathing, cooking, toilets). That would require two separate piping systems and is simply not practicable. This means that all water used for landscaping goes through our treatment systems, and accounts for the increase in operating costs last summer. Our top priorities are to provide water for domestic use and maintaining our fire protection system; providing water for landscaping is at the bottom of the list.

The Board has spent considerable time this winter reviewing our Rules and Regulations regarding water conservation, and will soon finalize our decisions. As a precaution, we will be starting our summer season by restricting watering to three days a week, with no watering between the hours of 10 am to 6 pm. Even number addresses will be allowed to water on Sunday, Tuesday and Friday. Odd number addresses on Monday, Thursday and Saturday. There will be no watering of any kind on Wednesdays. We encourage drip irrigation systems for trees, shrubs, perennials and vegetable gardening; otherwise hand-held devices can be used. Sprinkler systems will not be allowed, so please start planning accordingly.

We are also working with our Homeowners Association to develop specific xeriscaping guidelines and will share them in one of our next Updates. Putting any major new landscaping in place this summer (highly discouraged) will need a special use permit from the Board. As always, everyone is welcome to attend our monthly meetings to ask questions and provide input. You will find our meeting schedule on the home page of our website.

Please keep in mind that every gallon of water we save is a gallon that we do not have to pump out of the ground, treat, distribute, then collect, and treat yet again at the sewer treatment plant.

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PUMP IT ONCE	**TREAT IT TWICE**	**CONSERVE IT ALWAYS**

Steamboat Lake Water and Sanitation District Board,

Board Member	phone	email
Bob Hulton, President	970 846 3329	n/a
Jim Hillman, Secretary	303 906-5772	cleahill@msn.com
Tara Chase	970 846-7188	T_chase07@msn.com
Jim Finegan	970 879-7698	fintin8@gmail.com
Kathleen Titus	970 879-5898	kathleen@springsips.com

Website:	www.colorado.gov/SLWSD
To reach us by mail:	PO Box 690, Clark CO 80428
Send quarterly payments to:	Scott Colby, PO Box 772944, Steamboat Springs, CO 80477
	Jean Colby for billing questions: 970 879 2022