

La Mesa Water Cooperative

WaterGram - September 2014

Ross Bender new board member

The Board has appointed Ross Bender as the 7th member of the Board. We have been short one director since our annual meeting in April. For many years Ross has been helping the coop with electrical problems and we are pleased to welcome him to the Board.

Update on LMWC Leak Policies

- In recent years the Coop has tried several different policies to provide some financial relief to members who experienced large water bills because of leaks.
- These policies have been controversial, time consuming to administer, and difficult to apply fairly and consistently.
- Because of these problems, in December of 2013 the Board abandoned these policies and reaffirmed that members are responsible for all of charges associated with water delivered to their property.
- This change in Board policy had the unintended consequence of penalizing members who had large leaks that were not evident until they received their water bill. Although this is uncommon, when it occurs it is a serious problem.
- The Board recognizes the need to re-establish a policy that offers some degree of rate relief under these circumstances. Several alternative policies have been proposed and are under consideration.
- It is the Board's intention that whatever policy is adopted will be retroactive to January 1, 2014.

Recommendations of Water Supply Committee

As was reported in the July 2014

Watergram, it is generally recommended that water utilities have sufficient capacity to meet peak water needs with their largest source of supply out of service. We are not able to meet this standard. In addition, as our wells age and construction picks up, in the next few years we will need an additional source of water. Our target date is 2017-2019.

- We have only two choices. We can drill another well or install arsenic treatment facilities at well #3. The Water Supply Committee has been studying both alternatives. At this time our best alternative appears to be treating well #3.
- At the August meeting of the Board the Committee recommended that we hire an engineering firm to design treatment facilities at well #3.
- This approach was approved by the Board and requests for proposals have been sent to 7 engineering firms with experience in arsenic treatment at small water systems.

In 2013 the Water Supply Committee made a number of recommendations based on our water emergency of 2012. (You may recall that the phase converter at well #5 failed.)

- As a result of this experience the Water Supply Committee recommended that we take an inventory of crucial equipment that cannot be quickly obtained locally.
- This equipment was identified, purchased, and is on site.

Board of Directors

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|-------------|----------|---------------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| Ross Bender | 867-1176 | Marty Davis | 771-9127 | Irena Budzko King | 771-8437 |
| Bob Davey | 771-3434 | Jock Embry | 771-2330 | Jim Pilcher | 771-9341 |
| | | Gordon Forbes | 771-3464 | | |

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