

La Mesa Water Cooperative

WaterGram - February 2015

Annual Meeting and Elections

Our Annual Meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Thursday, April 23, 2015. As always, we will elect Board members at the Annual Meeting. This year we will have five available positions on the Board. On the opposite side of this page, you will find a formal Notice of Elections and an appeal to members who are interested in running for the Board. This notice has also been posted on the bulletin boards by the mail boxes.

Engineering Report on Arsenic Treatment

The Board has just received the draft of the planning report on arsenic treatment at Well #3 from the Smith Engineering Company. Next week Board members will be meeting with the engineering firm to discuss the report and their findings. We expect to have more information in the WaterGram and at the Annual Meeting.

Board Authorizes Purchase of VFDs

The Board has authorized the purchase of Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs) for wells #6 and #5. You may recall that we have had repeated electrical problems at well #5 that have resulted interruptions of service. The VFDs will increase the reliability of the wells, reduce stress on the pump motors and plumbing, reduce maintenance costs, and save electricity.

Board Explores E-Billing

Currently our monthly bills are printed, manually placed in envelopes, stamped, and mailed. This is inconvenient and expensive. In recent years there has been an increase in member requests for e-billing. Ideally we would be able to bill electronically and members could pay their bills electronically.

Unfortunately, a system of this type is cost prohibitive. Instead, we are exploring a system that will allow us to bill members via e-mail. Members can then pay by check or through their own electronic banking. If we adopt a system of e-mail billing it will be voluntary, and we will continue to mail bills to members who require them. We hope to have more information on this system in the next WaterGram.

Remote Reading Meters

Our monthly meter readings must be done manually. In addition to being costly and time intensive, it means that homeowners may not detect leaks and equipment malfunctions until their next monthly bill. Some members have expressed interest in a system that would conveniently inform them of their daily water usage. Electronic meter reading systems have been available for years, but they have only been economical for systems with a large number of meters. More recently systems have been simplified and much less costly.

The Board is investigating a recently introduced system that uses cellular technology to remotely read meters and allows members to obtain information on their daily water usage on their computer or cell phone. This system can be used with most (but not all) of our meters and will be limited to areas of the Coop that have reliable cell service.

If the Board decides to offer this or a similar system it will be an optional service with a small monthly fee. Considerable additional study is necessary before we can decide if we want to make such a system available to our members. We will keep you informed.

Board of Directors

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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www.lamesawatercoop.org

NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

The La Mesa Water Cooperative will hold elections for five positions on its Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 23, 2015 at 7:00 PM in the Placitas Library.

- A mail-in ballot and biographies of the candidates will be enclosed with your monthly bill in early March.
- Write in candidates are permitted and nominations may also be made from the floor during the Annual Meeting.
- Nominees from the floor must be present at the Annual Meeting, or have a representative present, to (1) give a brief oral biography and (2) agree to serve if elected. Nominees who do not fulfill these requirements will be disqualified.

Director Candidates Wanted

The only qualifications are that the candidate is a member of the Coop in good standing and has an interest in planning, operating, and maintaining our water system.

- Prior experience on a nonprofit board or knowledge of water systems is helpful, but it is not necessary. We will provide on-the-job training.
- We do much of our work by e-mail, so familiarity with e-mail and an available internet connection are expected.
- **We currently lack a Board member from Sundance Mesa, so we are particularly interested in candidates from this area.**

To become a candidate, please submit a one-paragraph biography by March 3, 2015. You can enclose it with your February payment or e-mail it to GBForbes@comcast.net. If you want more information about the role of Directors, call any Board Member at the phone numbers on the enclosed WaterGram. This is your opportunity to help to ensure an adequate supply of clean water for today and for future generations.

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