

La Mesa Water Cooperative

WaterGram - May 2015

New and Retiring Board Members

At our annual meeting on April 23rd Bill Marshall and Dave Otter were elected to the Board. Incumbent Board members Ross Bender and Bob Davey were re-elected. Director Jim Pilcher chose not to seek another term. The Board thanks Jim for his service.

Director's Reports

Director Irena King reviewed our 2014 Annual Drinking Water Quality report. As expected, the report indicated that our water meets all Federal and State quality standards. The complete report is available on the home page of our website listed below. (You may need to scroll down the page to find it.)

Phil Carter, Water Operator, reported on 2014 system maintenance and operations.

Director Jim Pilcher described our plans to inspect, repair, and paint our two large storage tanks this summer. The work will be done one tank at a time and service disruptions are not expected.

Director Marty Davis reported on current and future water supplies. His presentation was followed by a lengthy question and answer period. A summary of his report is being prepared for members who were unable to attend. See next month's Watergram for information.

Treasurer Jock Embry reviewed the extensive past, present, and future budgets that are located in the Members Only section of our website. (Password for this section is 87043)

Leaky Corner - an occasional forum where we learn more about our volunteers and community members.

Featuring Francis West

Francis West served on the Water Board from 2004-2014. A Santa Fe native, Francis moved to Placitas with his wife Chris in 2002. It was actually Chris who suggested that Francis volunteer his expertise and serve on the Board. During the years of his service, Francis reported on water quality and was an important liaison between the NM State Water Department and the La Mesa Coop. Francis, a geophysicist, with a degree from NM Tech in Socorro, worked in oil and water during his long career; travelling all over New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Kansas, and even a 9-month stint in Venezuela. While at Los Alamos, he worked on a government sponsored projects on geothermal energy harvesting using hydro-fracking methods. After, several years when the Fed changed direction, Francis moved to the regulatory side of the government and became certified engineer with the NM State Engineering Office, overseeing water boards and community wells. Francis has had long and colorful career, encompassing two of our very precious natural resources. Although he retired in 1993, he maintained sharp interest in these resources.

If you are interested in the geology of Placitas, call Francis; he can look at a terrain and tell you exactly about the whole history of interesting geologic and climate changes from the times when the Southwest was "wet". He says that this area is "technically unique" and he gets very excited about this subject saying "everything is constantly changing and climate is changing" – hopefully not too quickly - Francis!

Francis has other passions, besides spending time with his family; he likes hiking, reading, and listening to music from the 20-50's [Dixieland and classical jazz]. Now, Francis does not read novels or tidbits in newspapers; he reads hard core, evidence based writings that require hours of clarity and patience.

When asked if we have enough water here in La Mesa for the next 30-40 years, he explains we could drill more wells, although the capacity is getting crowded. He says there is space for more "smaller" wells producing about 50 GPM. These wells may have to be deeper, meaning, higher level of naturally occurring arsenic. These are the facts other groundwater user communities are facing too. He likes our water and thinks it is one of the best tasting waters – so drink it don't waste it. [IBK]

Board of Directors

Ross Bender	867-1176	Jock Embry	771-2330	Irena Budzki King	771-8437
Bob Davey	771-3434	Gordon Forbes	771-3464	Bill Marshall	867-6558
Marty Davis	771-9127			Dave Otter	867-7986

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