

La Mesa Water Cooperative

WaterGram - April 2014

Annual Meeting Month

The invitation to our annual meeting, the meeting agenda, and the ballot to approve our budgets are enclosed with your bill. Please don't forget to return the ballot with your monthly payment. The meeting will be held at the Placitas Public Library at 7:00 PM on Thursday, April 24th.

Preventive Maintenance Activities

The Coop has regularly scheduled preventive maintenance activities. Most of these go on behind the scenes and rarely are visible to Coop members. On the uncommon occasions when these activities may result in disruptions of service we post notices on the bulletin boards near the mailboxes and send notices to members who participate in our e-mail notification system.

For the next two years we will be replacing and upgrading many of our water meters. We schedule these when the budget permits and when we have available time. Meter replacement usually interrupts service for no more than 30 minutes. We will knock on your door and ask your permission before we do this work. There is no charge to the homeowner for replacing or upgrading the meters. We do not replace meters or do nonemergency repairs when the homeowner is absent.

Please Check your Irrigation System

Now that the irrigation season has begun, please check your system for proper operation and leaks. Drip lines are usually located on or slightly below the surface. As a result, they have little or no protection from abrasion, animals, or freezing. These lines are fragile and can be easily damaged by winter freeze/thaw cycles. These cycles frequently pop off the emitters, push apart joints or termi-

nals, and split connectors. Often the only way to find the leaks is to walk around your landscaping and search for unexpected damp areas. Undetected leaks and excessive watering are major sources of wasted water and high water bills.

The watering recommendations of the Albuquerque-Bernalillo Water Authority, available at <http://www.abcwua.org> are usually a good guide for our area. Although water needs are determined by your vegetation and type of soils, if you are watering for more than 20 minutes at a time, you may be wasting water. Because most of the soils in the Coop do not retain water very well, "deep watering" strategies are often wasteful and ineffective. Overwatering wastes water, increases your water bill, and does not benefit your plantings. For more information on how much water is needed, go to <http://www.watersmart.us/>

If you have an automatic irrigation system and will be out of town, please have someone check your property on a regular basis. Many of our most wasteful and costly water losses occur when homeowners are out of town. Homeowners are responsible for the cost of all water delivered to their property.

Contacting the Board

Want to know more? Members are encouraged to attend Board meetings. These are usually held at 5:00 PM on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Placitas Public Library. Meeting agendas are posted at the mailboxes and are available on our web site approximately a week in advance of the meeting. You can contact individual Board members at the numbers listed below or write us at the same address where you send your payment. Please tell us how we can serve you better.

Board of Directors

Bob Blanchard (802) 922-1042
Bob Davey 771-3434
Marty Davis 771-9127

Gordon Forbes 771-3464
Irena Budzko King 771-8437

Dave Otter 867-7986
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