

Municipal Utility District No. 18 March 2010 Newsletter

Visit MUD 18 Website – www.mcmud18.com:

If you haven't already done so, please visit our web site - a convenient and timely source of information. MUD 18's Operating Budget Package for the current year has been added to the documents on the site. The website gives us the capability to send out timely e-blast messages to our customers with cost effective delivery of newsletters and timely information related to weather events, service interruptions, etc. If you received a copy of this newsletter by email, we have your address. If you did not receive it, please log onto the site and give us your email address. Your address will not be shared with anyone and you can unsubscribe at any time. **Please add noreply@mcmud18 to your safe senders list so the e-blasts are not treated as junk mail.**



Board of Director Election to be Held on May 8:

The terms of three of the five positions on the Board expire in May. All three incumbents have filed for re-election: Roy Champagne, Joe Constantino and Linda Pierce. A fourth candidate, Al Franklin has also filed as a candidate. To be able to vote, you must be a resident of Bentwater and a registered voter in Precinct 72. Qualified voters may vote for 3 of the 4 candidates. The election will be held in Bentwater. Early voting will be April 28 through May 2. Election day is May 8. Details of the election, location, times and profiles of each candidate will be provided in a follow-up mail out and e-blast message.

Debt Refunding Reduces Annual Debt Service by \$38,867:

At our February meeting, the Board approved a proposal from First Southwest, our Financial Advisor, for a refunding of \$5,350,000 of bonds the District sold in 1998 and 2000. The total gross savings were \$466,400 with a total net present value of \$299,000. The 5.59% savings on the refunded bonds were net savings after covering the costs of refinancing. MUD 18's A+ bond rating, enjoyed by only a handful of MUD's in Texas, was a huge advantage in this refunding saving in effect the bond insurance of approximately \$60,000.

Update on MUD 18's Long Term Water Supply Planning:

MUD 18 is one of 24 large volume water users in Montgomery County who have filed a resolution with Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District (LSGCD) requesting a delay in the timeline to implement their rules to reduce groundwater usage by 30 % in 2016. The current schedule calls for a Declaration of Intent on how these reductions are to be achieved by June 1 of this year. The San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) has also set a date of May 1 to sign their Groundwater Reduction Plan contract. We have concerns with some aspects of this contract and are seeking time to evaluate alternatives. LSGCD is expected to rule on these resolutions in their April Board meeting.

A potentially promising alternative approach is to use water from the Catahoula sands formation which is well below the Jasper formation where we currently withdraw our well water. LSGCD is modifying their definitions to allow this deeper water to be considered as an alternative to regular groundwater and count towards the 30% reduction target. MUD 18 is participating in a collaborative path with other MUDs around the Lake to plan and implement a test well to be drilled most likely in Bentwater. Key data required from a test well are: 1) water quality, particularly salinity; and 2) yield. The data from this test well will help us understand the technical requirements (i.e. reverse osmosis) for drinking quality, viable production volumes, and the economics for a commercial well from this formation.

As you can see, this entire situation is rapidly changing. Our goal is to choose an option that fits the needs of our community in the most cost effective manner both short and long term.

MUD 18 Project Highlight:

With an interest in keeping you informed about District projects that provide service and benefit to our residents, our Newsletters will highlight current projects. Recently, the District improved a drainage swale north of Monterrey Rd. The purpose of this swale, which is part of the original drainage design for Section 5, is to capture runoff from the area north of Bentwater boundaries and to convey it to Oak Creek which flows into Lake Conroe. The District owns and maintains the storm sewer system within Bentwater and provides maintenance and needed improvements within dedicated drainage easements for all swales and creeks within Bentwater.



Bentwater Water Conservation Program Update:

The BCA, MUD and POA are co-sponsoring a project to demonstrate water wise concepts to conserve water both inside the home and in landscape irrigation. Residents were invited to participate as a pilot in this study. Eight homeowners have been selected by a joint team of the sponsoring organizations. The team is in the process of meeting with contractors to confirm plans and establish required modifications to each pilot home. The goal is to have the pilots up and running in April.

Water Softener Adjustment

Due to the naturally hard water that is produced from the regional underground water supply, many Bentwater residents have installed water softeners. Based on testing by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the hardness level of our water is at 161 parts per million (ppm) or 9.3 grains per gallon. Hardness is a measure of calcium carbonate. Your water softener setting should be set for 9-10 grains of hardness. Adjusting your water softener to a higher setting, such as 25 or more may increase the sodium content in the water that could cloud glassware, depending on the type and quality of the glass. Dishwashers should be operated on economy, or air dry cycle; the hot drying cycle could increase the possibility of cloudiness. If necessary, check your softener operation with a professional. If you are considering the purchase of a water softener, you should consider that water in Montgomery County has high iron content. Our iron level is at 0.142 ppm. This information has been posted on our website for your future reference.

Are you meeting Your Conservation Goals?

We encourage everyone to use the data provided with your monthly bill to set goals for reducing your water consumption. The bill includes a rolling 12 month summary of your water usage in thousands of gallons. In late 2009, we introduced a pie chart showing percentage of users in each of several consumption volumes – encouraging residents to know “Where are you on the chart?” The goals you set can guide your selection of plants to restore/redesign your landscaping and setting your irrigation system. Many learned they have been overwatering their lawns in the summer. We have posted a list of plants recommended by the County Extension Office on our website, www.mcmud18.com under the Conservation tab. Each of us has a responsibility to use our water resource responsibly. With education and awareness we can do better.

Sincerely,

Your MUD Board:

Lou Tichacek	President	597-7010
Linda Pierce	Vice President	597-5463
Roy Champagne	Treasurer	597-8786
Joe Constantino	Secretary	597-8029
Chris Uzelmeier	Assistant Secretary	449-5198