

Municipal Utility District No. 18 May/June 2010 Newsletter

Election Results

Thanks to the 564 residents who voted in the recent MUD 18 Board election. Roy Champagne, Joe Constantino and Linda Pierce were re-elected to serve another four year term.

Did You Receive the E-Blast with Election Results?



The election results were previously communicated via an E-Blast from MUD 18's website and by an e-mail from the POA. If you did not receive our E-Blast, we invite you to visit our web site at www.mcmud18.com and sign-up. The website gives us the capability to send you timely information. Please add noreply@mcmud18 to your safe senders list so the e-blasts are not treated as junk mail.

Update on MUD 18's Long Term Water Supply Planning

In our March Newsletter, we reported that MUD 18 and 23 other large volume water users in Montgomery County had filed a resolution with Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District (LSGCD) requesting a delay in the timeline to declare our intent to implement their rules to reduce groundwater usage by 30 % in 2016. We requested the delay to enable time to study alternative options to achieve the reductions. At their April Board meeting, LSGCD agreed to extend the deadlines. This gives us the time we need to explore alternatives.

Re-cap of background: LSGCD, the organization responsible for the protection of groundwater resources in Montgomery County, has issued rules requiring Large Volume Users such as ourselves to use 30% less groundwater by 2016 than permitted for 2009. We must make up the shortfall by conservation, reclaiming, or use of alternate water sources. Under the revised schedule, a Declaration of Intent document must be filed with LSGCD by August 2 stating broadly how we will accomplish the 30% reduction and whether we will do it individually or jointly with one or more other Large Volume Users. And we must submit a detailed Groundwater Reduction Plan by April 1 of next year. Several sources of alternate water currently exist. One option is to join the San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) plan that will utilize treated water from Lake Conroe. Another option is to use groundwater from formulations well below our current wells in the Gulf Coast Aquifer. LSGCD has recently modified their rules to allow this option provided that it does not impair the quality or quantity of water available from our existing Jasper formation.

MUD 18 to drill test well: Since this alternate groundwater source appears to be more economically attractive than the SJRA plan and does not contribute to lake level drawdown, we have authorized the drilling of a test well to obtain the water quality and productivity data needed to determine if this is a viable long term approach. We have awarded the contract to Alsay Inc., the low bidder. The test bore will begin in June behind the firehouse on FM 1097. Ample data exist from other wells drilled over the years to give us a high probability of success. The overall cost of the test well is expected to be in the \$350-500k range depending on cost of disposing of discharged water. We expect to recoup a portion of this expense via financial support from other interested parties. Results should be in hand in time to file the August Declaration of Intent with LSGCD. If all goes well, it would eventually lead to a 3rd production well in Bentwater by 2014 and the opportunity to achieve double early conversion credits from LSGCD for the 2014-2016 period. Independent of the LSGCD requirements, MUD 18 must expand the capacity of our water plant. Our planning will focus on an expansion strategy that complies with the regulations AND is the least cost long term solution. We will provide updates on this project and next steps in future E-Blasts and newsletters.

Water Conservation Tips.

Regardless of the ultimate choice for alternate water supply, conservation must play a large role in preserving the long term water supply to the region. Recent studies show that our lawns consume over 75% of the average home's water usage. In Bentwater, water usage starts to increase in March and reaches a peak in August. Bentwater uses over 350,00,000 gallons of water per year, with monthly pumpage in March of 14,000,000 gallons to a high of 45,000,000 gallons in August, an increase of over 300%. Your May bill included a brochure with important tips for *Conserving Water Outdoors*. This was provided by the Bentwater Water Conservation Program co-sponsored by the MUD, BCA and POA. A copy of this brochure can be found on our website under the *Conservation Page*. Look for an update on this project in an upcoming article in *Bentwater Life* magazine published by POA. Some indoor and outdoor water conservation reminders:



- Turn off water while brushing your teeth – save 6 gallons a day
- Cut 5 minutes off your shower – save 12 gallons a day.
- Water early or late – save 25 gallons a day
- Avoid sprinkler run-off – save thousands of gallons a year
- Monitor rainfall and adjust sprinkler frequency – save thousands of gallons a year
- Water no more than an inch a week – all your lawn really needs

Visit www.american-lawns.com for more information and ideas for having an attractive yard and conserve water. Visit www.montgomerycountymastergardeners.org to learn about native plants that are drought (and freeze) resistant.

Lake Level Impact Study

MUD 18 is participating in the funding of a study by Texas A&M to determine the impact of lake level reductions on lake area property values, property tax revenues and sales tax revenues. This study is being sponsored by Judge Sadler with funding participation from the Lake Conroe Association, Lake Conroe Communities Network, Conroe, Montgomery County and lake area MUDs. The information will be critically important to justify long range planning for alternative surface water supplies to augment Lake Conroe as the demand for water in Montgomery County continues to grow. A possible outcome may be the justification for building surface water reservoirs that can replenish Lake Conroe and/or serve as alternative water supply. These options could take decades to implement, but will be vital to the long term future of the area.

Hurricane Preparedness on Website

Since we are at the beginning of the 2010 hurricane season, all residents are encouraged to become aware of the steps to be taken if a hurricane begins a path toward our area. The National Hurricane Center, area news media and civil defense agencies will provide information and advice for residents in the upper Texas coast region. Issues within Bentwater will be addressed by the POA and MUD 18. MUD 18's role focuses on potential problems related to water supply, sewage handling, garbage pickup and drainage of storm water. An information sheet on advance preparations is enclosed with this newsletter and posted on www.mcmud18.com for your convenient reference.

Status of Waste Management Recycling Facilities

Some of our customers have asked when we will be able to use larger recycle containers on wheels. Waste Management is in the process of building a new "state of the art" recycling facility to be located in South Houston that will be able to handle single stream processing of current recyclables with the added capability of glass containers and plastic wrap. Since the most responsive areas to recycling so

far have been Bentwater, Panorama Village, and the Woodlands, these communities will be selected for test marketing of the larger containers when the new processing facility is operational. Currently, the recycle material collected in Bentwater is baled up, put on rail cars and taken to an outsourced single stream processing unit. WM is engaged with a large recycling effort in San Antonio, where they are using 96 gallon recycle containers. Our containers are 18 gallon green plastic bins. For customers who wish to recycle more than this container will hold, they may purchase a 2nd recycle container from WM by calling Customer Service at 1-800-800-5804. Otherwise, you can use a Rubbermaid container which is prominently labeled RECYCLE and can be purchased at Loews or Home Depot.

Major Projects Update:

1. Our wastewater treatment plant expansion project, in addition to increasing capacity, was also designed to improve operational efficiencies and reduce our electrical power costs. After six months in full operation, we are already realizing \$17,000 in reduced waste water sludge costs and \$14,000 in electrical costs. Part of this project also included replacing the aging wooden boundary fence with a more substantial and esthetically attractive fence.

2. Water Well #2 was recently rehabilitated to restore the pumping capability of the well to its original design capacity. Water wells typically lose pumping capacity over time due to a variety of reasons, including worn and/or inefficient impellers, lower submergence over the pump, and motor/electrical inefficiencies. The well was restored to its original capacity by replacing the pump, lowering the new pump to a new depth, and replacing the motor. The well now pumps about 40% more water than before the rehabilitation.



3. Natural gas generators have been installed on selected lift stations. Bentwater covers a large area and has rolling topography, which necessitates the need for sewer pump (lift) stations. There are currently 24 lift stations in Bentwater. The Board authorized a study to prioritize those lift stations which are most at risk during long term power outages. By the beginning of hurricane season, there will be a total of 11 generators installed to provide power at the most vulnerable stations. This will enable the operator to use the District’s portable diesel generator to avoid problems at the remaining lift stations. The District’s 5 Year Plan has budgeted for an additional 5 generators to be completed next year.



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