

Mountain Lakes District Water Committee Report for May 2014

This report covers the monthly meeting of 5/1/14.

Mountain Lakes District Water Committee Meeting of 5/1/14

Status: Draft as of 5/5/14 – Reviewed as of 5/7/ 14– Approved as of 6/5/14

This was the May Water Committee Meeting. It was held from 7:30 AM to 8:50 AM on 5/1/14. Attendees: Ed Rajsteter – Chair, Don Drew – Water Department, Bob Long-Commissioner, Robert Roudebush, Peter Olander and Ken King. Tony Salvucci was on the phone.

We approved the Water Committee Report for April, 2014.

Water System Status

The system is running well. We are using less than 20,000 gallons per day. There was a leak that developed when the water was turned back on for Dave Martella. This was fixed.

Jim Vernon from Nobis Engineering

The main part of the meeting was a discussion on the revised Proposal for Water Supply Services submitted by Jim Vernon. The question was should we proceed with Phase 1 at an estimated cost of \$7,100. Phase 1 looks at maps and tries to come up with possible sites. However, you do not really know if there is water in any area until Phase 2 drills test wells. The total cost of one gravel-packed production well is about \$60,000.

Tony was concerned that we do not know what it will cost to get the water from the well back into our system. It may be that the cost of the overall solution is much greater than just staying with Woodsville Water & Light. This is what happened when we looked at the surface water treatment option.

We decided to take the following approach. Don will ask Jim Vernon for an estimate of the overall cost based on similar projects he has done. Don will also work with Scott Clang to identify some other places that use gravel packed wells and visit them to get a better idea of the yearly operating costs of such systems. At our June meeting, we will look at the total estimated costs and decide how to proceed.

Jim Vernon had talked to the state about this project. Don will check with the same people he talked to get their opinion of this approach.

The Mountain Lakes Water Tariff

We continued a discussion from our April 10th meeting on the role of the district and Don versus the homeowner on water-related issues. This is all spelled out in the Water Tariff. We focused on a problem that Don has experienced on new connections. For new installations, the tariff states that “the customer shall employ a competent plumber, satisfactory to the Department, to complete the work”. The problem is that if the customer wants to use someone from outside our area, how do you establish competency. This person will be connecting into our water mains. We all agreed that we should revise the Water Tariff to state that we will determine who does the work and they will bill the customer.

Most of us had never read the Tariff so we decided that we will all do that before the next meeting to see if there are any other changes needed. We will have to produce a new version and have it approved at a District meeting.