Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District Number 25

WATERWORKS

USEFUL FACTS ABOUT YOUR WATER DISTRICT

SUMMER 2006

Martinez and Murany Re-elected to the District's Board of Directors!

On May 13, 2006, local elections were held and two Board of Director positions for Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 25 were determined by the votes of the community. The District is pleased to say that by a solid majority, Sally Martinez and Beth Murany were re-elected to serve four-year terms.

The Board of Directors, the Operations team, and District consultants have worked hard over the last eight years to lower taxes, develop and implement both long and short term strategic plans, make needed capital improvements, to provide a superior level of customer service to the residents served, and to operate the district in a proactive yet cost effective manner. In fact, under the leadership of Directors Martinez and Murany, the Board implemented a water conservation rebate program last year that actually provides financial credits to our residents for saving water!

The Board has also worked especially hard to keep residents informed about what is being done to ensure an adequate supply of quality, affordable water from the District. The Board has been successful in all three of these areas, and the re-election of two experienced members to the Board of Directors will ensure that trend continues. Elections are a great opportunity to provide feedback to everyone we vote for — or, in some cases, against. The community holds those elected to represent our interests accountable for the District's actions, and every Board member is acutely aware of the responsibilities associated with this role.

The Board also recognizes that we cannot be successful in the long term if election time is the only time the desires of the community are heard. So please don't wait for the ballot box to let us know how the the District is doing. The Board invites and values the input of the residents and customers -- this helps confirm that we're on the right track, and it is significantly easier to resolve problems before issues are allowed to fester and escalate.

Again, thank you to all involved for the support and outstanding turnout for the May 13th election. The Board pledges to do everything reasonable to warrant the continued trust of the community.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO EARN A CREDIT ON YOUR WATER BILL?

District customers now have the opportunity to participate in a voluntary program that offers a rebate (in the form of a credit to your water bill) designed to encourage water conservation.

The program is very simple:

- Residents who wish to join the program must contact the billing office (281-277-0129, ext. 105, 116, 109, or 112) and agree to participate in the program for one year (365 day period to be calculated from the date the resident joins the program).
- For this one year period, the billing and collection staff will compare the resident's current water usage (gallons used) to water usage for the same time period in the previous year.
- Every 6 months in the defined 12 month period that the customer uses less water (measured in total gallons used) compared to the water used for the same period in the previous year, the resident will receive a 10% rebate in the form of a credit to their water bill (based on current year's usage with a maximum credit of $75.00 per account.)
- For the months in the current billing cycle when total gallons used equals or exceeds amounts used compared to the same period in the previous year, no credit will be issued.
- The conservation rebate program ends 365 days from the date the resident joins the program. To sign up for further rebates, the resident must voluntarily sign up for a new one year commitment.

Water conservation just makes sense…and now you can earn "cents" (credit to your water bill) for taking steps to ensure an adequate supply of water for future generations.

Call to sign up today...and join your neighbors in saving money by using this valuable resource wisely!

Could Your Hose Be Hazardous to Your HEALTH?

When water flows backwards through the water supply system, it is called ***backsiphonage*** or ***backflow***. When the water is accidentally mixed with hazardous chemicals or bacteria, the results can be dangerous...even fatal!

The danger arises when the hose -- *any* hose -- is connected to a harmful substance, and if the pressure in the water main line drops while your hose is submerged in polluted or contaminated water, the water (and whatever is in it) could be sucked back into your pipes and your drinking water supply.

Water pressure drops can happen when firefighters battle a nearby blaze or when repairs are made to a broken water line. Some harmful substances you should be wary of are the chemicals used to fertilize and kill weeds on your lawn. The cleansers used in your kitchen and bathroom could be hazardous if swallowed, as could bacteria in the water from your pool or waterbed.

Fortunately, keeping your water safe from contaminants is easy. Take the following precautions to protect your drinking water:

- Never submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs or sinks.
- Always keep the end of the hose clear of possible contaminants.
- Do not use spray attachments without a backflow prevention device. The chemicals used on your lawn are toxic and can be fatal if ingested.
- Do buy and install inexpensive backflow prevention devices for all threaded faucets around your home. The devices are available at hardware stores and home improvement centers.

Use Your Automatic Sprinkler System Wisely...

So you've made a major investment and installed a sprinkler system for your lawn and landscaped areas. No more dragging a hose around the yard to irrigate your plants and grass. What a lot of homeowners don't realize is that sprinkler systems -- if not set properly -- can really drive up a water bill.

Before you experience "sticker shock", review the table below to see how using a 5 zone system with approximately 7 sprinkler heads can affect monthly water usage. Please keep in mind that this is for illustration only and not meant to be used as a guideline of what your use and water bill may be*.

Call our District office to schedule a free consultation with one of our technicians to inspect your individual system and discuss how the system may impact your water usage and cost-efficiency.

Zone	Time (Minutes)	X 15 (gallons)	Gallons
1	10	X 15	150
2	10	X 15	150
3	10	X 15	150
4	10	X 15	150
5	10	X 15	150
Total	50	X 15	750

**Actual water usage varies from resident to resident.*

Is your water soft or hard? And what difference does it make?

You may have heard the description "soft" or "hard" water, but may not have understood exactly what that meant. Water "hardness" is just one attribute of water. Technically speaking, hardness is based on the sum of positively charged ions (*cations*) dissolved in water. The compounds are most commonly calcium and magnesium with trace amounts of metals such as iron and zinc.

The hardness of water is typically measured in milligrams per liter (mg/L) or parts per million (ppm). For example, the range for testing swimming pool water is from soft water at 0 to hard water at 1000.

While there is no health threat from hard water, chemical reactions produce something called *scale*, which can leave insoluble mineral deposits in pipes and stains or film on dishes, shower doors, faucets, tubs, and walls. In a gas water heater, some experts claim, a scale buildup can increase operating costs by as much as 29 percent.

Hard water requires more soap and detergents for washing than soft water. In a shower, however, it's easier to rinse off hard water because the calcium and magnesium in the water react with the fatty acids in the soap leaving less to rinse off. Hard water is also good for teeth and bones, and has minerals that contribute to how the water tastes.

Removing the calcium and magnesium either with a packaged water softener or with a mechanical unit softens hard water. While many homeowners choose to soften their water because it is easier on pipes and fixtures, softener equipment can be an expensive investment -- ranging from $500 to $1600 for a unit. Before reaching a decision, it makes sense to conduct careful research to consider all options.

Some concerns have been raised about drinking softened water because of low chloride levels and high sodium (salt is used in the softening process), but test results are too conflicting for medical experts to take a definitive position. Residents considering renting or purchasing water softening equipment, may contact the District office for a consultation. We'll be happy to assist you in considering the options.

Groundwater Primer -- The ABCs of WATER

Water supply and demand is rapidly becoming a global issue...one that is already a major area of contention between countries and even among some of our United States. There has also been significant concern about drought throughout the Southwest and in other parts of the world.

The Harris Galveston and Fort Bend Subsidence Districts have issued groundwater reduction mandates for Harris, Galveston, and Fort Bend Counties. These mandates to reduce reliance on groundwater will require us to contract for surface water resources that will offer a long-term supply of quality drinking water for the years ahead.

In preparation for more widespread discussion of water issues by the local media and by our area residents, here is a glossary of water terms to keep for handy reference.

Water Glossary...

Aquifer: An underground geological formation able to store and yield water.

Collection site: A stream, lake, reservoir, or other body of water fed by water drained from a watershed.

Condensation: The process in the hydrologic cycle by which a vapor becomes a liquid; the opposite of evaporation.

Confined Aquifer (also known as artesian or pressure aquifers): an underground geological formation where the groundwater is bound between layers of impermeable substances like clay or dense rock. When tapped by a well, water in confined aquifers is forced up, sometimes above the soil surface. This is how a flowing artesian well is formed.

Conservation: The use of water-saving methods to reduce the amount of water needed for homes, lawns, farming, and industry, and thus increasing water supplies for optimum long-term economic and social benefits.

Consumptive use: The use of a resource that reduces the supply without returning an equal amount. Examples include the intake of water by plants, humans, and animals and the incorporation of water into the products of industrial or food processing.

Contaminant: Any substance that, when added to water (or another substance), makes it impure and unfit for consumption or use.

Depletion: The loss of water from surface water reservoirs or groundwater aquifers at a rate greater than that of recharge.

Discharge: An outflow of water from a stream, pipe, groundwater aquifer, or watershed; the opposite of recharge.

Drought: An extended period with little or no precipitation; often affects crop production and availability of water supplies.

Erosion: The wearing down or washing away of the soil and land surface by the action of water, wind, or ice.

Evaporation: The conversion of a liquid (water) into a vapor (a gaseous state), usually through the application of heat energy during the hydrologic cycle; the opposite of condensation.

Fresh water: Water with less than 0.5 parts per thousand dissolved salts.

Groundwater: Water found in the spaces between soil particles and cracks in rocks underground (located in the saturation zone).

Groundwater is a natural resource that is used for drinking, recreation, industry, and growing crops.

Hydrologic cycle (also known as the water cycle): The paths water takes through its various states (vapor, liquid, solid) as it moves throughout the ocean,atmosphere, groundwater, streams, etc.

Impermeable layer: A layer of material (clay) in an aquifer through which water does not pass.

Municipal water system: A network of pipes, pumps, and storage and treatment facilities designed to deliver potable water to homes, schools, businesses, and other users in a city or town and to remove and treat waste materials.

Point source pollution: Pollutants discharged from any identifiable point, including pipes, ditches, channels, sewers, tunnels, and containers of various types.

Pollution: An alteration in the character or quality of the environment, or any of its components, that renders it less suited for certain uses. The alteration of the physical, chemical, or biological properties of water by the introduction of any substance that renders the water harmful to use.

Precipitation: The part of the hydrologic cycle when water falls, in a liquid or solid state, from the atmosphere to Earth (rain, snow, sleet).

Recharge: Groundwater supplies are replenished, or recharged, when water enters the saturation zone by actions like rain or snow melt.

Runoff: Precipitation that flows over land to surface streams, rivers, and lakes.

Soil: The top layer of the Earth's surface, containing unconsolidated rock and mineral particles mixed with organic material.

Storm drain: Constructed opening in a road system through which runoff from the road surface flows into an underground system.

Surface water: Water above the surface of the land, including lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, floodwater, and runoff.

Subsidence: the lowering in elevation of the surface of land by the withdrawal of groundwater.

Wastewater: Water that contains unwanted materials from homes, businesses, and industries; a mixture of water and dissolved or suspended substances.

Wastewater treatment: Any of the mechanical or chemical processes used to modify the quality of wastewater in order to make it more compatible or acceptable to humans and the environment.

Water (H2O): An odorless, tasteless, colorless liquid made up of a combination of hydrogen and oxygen; a major constituent of all living matter.

Water quality: The chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of water with respect to its suitability for a particular use.

Water quality standard: Recommended or enforceable maximum contaminant levels of chemicals or materials (such as chlorobenzene, nitrate, iron, arsenic) in water.

Watershed: The land area from which surface runoff drains into a stream, channel, lake, reservoir, or other body of water; also called a drainage basin.

Water table: The top of an unconfined aquifer; indicates the level below which soil and rock are saturated with water.

Water treatment plants: Facilities that treat water to remove contaminants so that it can be safely used.

Wetlands: Lands where water saturation is the dominant factor in determining the nature of soil development and the types of plant and animal communities. Other common names for wetlands are sloughs, ponds, and marshes.

Xeriscaping: An environmentally friendly form of landscaping that uses a variety of indigenous and drought-tolerant plants, shrubs, and ground cover.

(Source: The Groundwater Foundation; courtesy of the North Harris County Regional Walter Authority, WATERLINES.)

MEET YOUR DISTRICT OPERATIONS TEAM

Service is a priority for the Board of Directors and Operations team at Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 25. In fact, excellence in customer service and operations is our primary objective. The level of service we are able to provide is only as good as the people responsible for providing that service. The District takes great pride in the fact that our District Operations people who work for you are some of the best in the business.

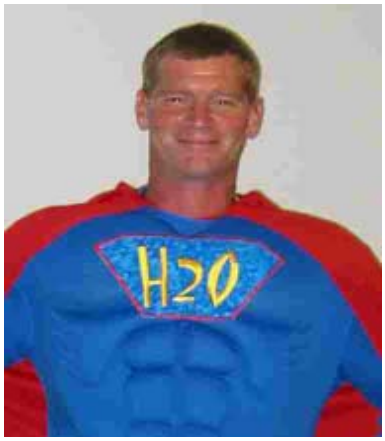
Members of the District's Operations Team, left to right: Jay Kall, Brian Sebesta, Don Ehler, and James Nulisch.

Dan Whitcher has direct responsibility for construction and projects as well as indirect responsibility for the field operations crew; facility operations; field repairs and maintenance, security; environmental and regulatory compliance; and strategic and financial planning. Dan holds a Texas C Water and C Wastewater license in addition to a Customer Service Inspection certificate. Dan has 25 years experience in every facet of the water and wastewater industry and will complete his Associate's degree in 2007.

Brian Sebesta is the District's Chief Operator and holds a C Water and B Wastewater license issued by the State of Texas. Additionally, Brian is certified in Backflow Prevention and Customer Service Inspections. With more than 15 years experience in the water and wastewater industry, Brian is directly responsible for the Field Operations crew; facility maintenance and operations; equipment maintenance; infrastructure repairs and maintenance; customer service calls; and compliance with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and other regulatory agencies.

Tim Hopwood holds a D Water and B Wastewater license, and is working to complete certifications in Backflow Prevention. Tim has completed 60 hours of credits toward his bachelor's degree. With a background of more than 21 years experience in the wastewater/water industry, Tim assists Brian with the day-to-day operation and supervision of all the District's plants and facilities, and Operators. Tim hails from Wichita, Kansas.

Don Ehler holds a C Water and C Wastewater license from the State of Texas and expects to earn his B wastewater license in 2006. Don holds Backflow Prevention and Customer Service Inspection certifications, and has direct responsibility for the District's inspection program. Don is the District's Safety Officer and has 10 years experience in safety training. Don assists Brian with direct supervision of the day-to-day activities associated infrastructure repairs and maintenance, the District's inspection program, and responses to customer service calls.



Chad Smith holds C Wa-

ter and C Wastewater licenses issued by the State of Texas as well as certification in Backflow Prevention and Customer Service Inspection. Chad operates a backhoe and is the lead crew member for all excavations and infrastructure repair sites. Chad also represents the District at community and neighborhood functions as "**Water Man**" to the delight of both young and old participants.

James Nulisch holds D Water and D Wastewater licenses from the State of Texas and celebrates over 20 years experience in the water and wastewater industry, and specializes in sewer rehabilitation, infrastructure repairs and maintenance, meter installation and replacement, and pump and motor maintenance.

Jay Kall, the newest member of the District's Operations team, recently acquired his D Water and D Wastewater licenses and has completed training in Backflow Prevention. Jay plans to obtain his C water and wastewater license, along with his Customer Service Certification, next year.

Paul Lee is responsible for the District's grounds keeping, landscaping and maintenance functions, with over 30 years in the field. Paul joined the District after losing his home and everything he owned due to Hurricane Katrina last year. The District is fortunate to have Paul as part of the team and his contributions to the District and our residents have already proven invaluable.

Training and Experience

Before anyone can operate a plant or turn a valve, state approved licensure is required. The overall qaulity of operations and the service provided to our residents depends on the expertise and experience of the Field Operations staff.

Acquiring a license in wastewater or water requires in-classroom training, on the job experience, and the ability to successfully complete the state-approved exams. Acquiring a wastewater operator's license is not easy; in fact, it can take up to 160 hours of training depending on the level of education and years of experience. Once the license is earned, the operator must take continuing education to maintain and to renew the license every three years.

Our licensed water and wastewater operators are well educated and highly trained professionals who must comply with state requirements to obtain and maintain their license status. The District is proud of our Operations Team.

You never miss the water 'til the well runs dry...

Mr. Franklin knew what he was talking about all those years ago...problem is that he could not have imagined that his beloved country would so dramatically undervalue one of its most important natural resources.

Being a frugal man, he would also probably remind us to "Waste not, want not." The axioms were good enough for our forefathers...and we need to learn to live by them today.

The Board of Directors of Fort Bend County MUD 25 is making some very difficult decisions about future water supplies, and encourages you -- the consumer -- to help by using water as efficiently as possible at home and in the yard.

Let's make Old Ben proud!

The District has some very informative water conservation materials for our customers... stop by the office or call to request them.

Hey Kids...Did you know that there are some cool drawings on our website for you to color? Check them out today!

www.waterdistrict25.com

DISTRICT NEWS!

Attention Seniors!

The Board of Directors of Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 25 voted to give our resident senior citizens a break! Senior citizens can receive a discount on annual MUD taxes. For more complete information or to find out if you qualify, please contact Tommy Lee at Assessments of the Southwest, at 281-482-0216.

It's up to US... Let's use our water resources wisely!

May we help you?

Our District Operations staff is here to serve you, the residents and customers of the District. Do you have a problem with your water bill? Do you have a bill that seems too high and need help to track the problem? Missing a payment? Do you have a leak, or think you have a leak, and need assistance? Do you have a problem with a backflow device? Do you need an inspection of a backflow device? Do you have a concern about a repair that may have affected your landscaping?

We are here to help! Call us at:

Billing Problems:
Talk to Tracey, Cathryn, Dezeray or Leonela at 281-277-0129 ext. 105, 109, or 112.

Leaks, Inspections, Problems associated with Excavations: Talk to one of our operators at 281-277-0129, ext. 113, 111, or 106.

We also have a number of methods in place to allow you quick and easy access anytime...

1. E-MAIL -- Our staff can be reached through the Internet! Residents may contact us at our E-Mail addresses listed on our website -- www.waterdistrict25.com -- in the "Contact Us" area.

2. REGULAR MAIL -- You can mail your comments to our Post Office Box:
Fort Bend County Municipal
Utility District No. 25
P.O. Box 2847
Sugar Land, Texas 77487-2847

3. BY PHONE --
Phone: 281-277-0129
Fax: 281-277-0028

4. MONTHLY MEETINGS -- Come to our District meeting! Your Board of Directors holds a public meeting the second Friday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at our office, located at:
18230 Old Richmond Road
Sugar Land, Texas 77478

Fort Bend County Municipal
Utility District No. 25
P.O. Box 2847
Sugar Land, Texas 77487-2847

7/06 -- 2900