

WATER COMMITTEE MEETING    THURSDAY AUGUST 7, 2014    COMMUNITY CENTER

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Claudia Ellsworth, Island Manager, Judy Greinke, Kathy Deuster, Janet Podell, Charles Smith, Fred Fath, Sue Pottorff.

CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL (CCC): The committee announced that all members have turned in their CCC Survey forms. Those connections that require a back flow device have all opted-in to use the same certified backflow tester which will reduce the testing cost for each person. Paul Fredrickson from Budget Backflow Testing will do testing on August 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Department of Health requires backflow prevention assemblies according to (WAC)246-290-490. Further work may be needed to check on legality of two members removing their assemblies. If needed, NWS will be called in to resolve the issue at the owner's expense.

BILLING PROGRAM: Fred Fath has been working with the HMC office designing programs for recording water usage data in a format that gives usable information for our rate study. HMC bills for water using Quick Books and will need a more advanced program when we begin to bill for usage. \*RECOMMENDATION: The Water Committee recommends to the HMC Board that at least \$250 will be spent for the software to accomplish calculations and a way to import into Quick Books Statement Billing.

WATER RATE STUDY: Water usage for each Member is being recorded every month and eventually will provide one full year of concrete data to use in setting our water rates. The projected time line will be published in the next Beachcomber. Charles Smith, WDM, is keeping track of water production from the reservoir into our system. This gives us an amount of water used at Community water connections, flushing, and leakage. The plan is to document actual HI member's water usage, compare various water companies rate schedules, and design tiered water rates based on average daily water use. The rates will stay the same for winter and summer with no seasonal charges. The rates must cover all operations, maintenance and reserves for our system.

Discussion continued about how the "loan assessment" plays into our rate study. To clarify - paying for the USDA loan assessment is separate from paying the base fee and paying for water usage. Present Bill: **Flat Rate** (\$21 month) \$63 quarter. This covers operation and maintenance, reserves and unlimited water usage. **Loan Assessment** (\$14.85 month) \$44.55 quarter. Only those Members who chose to pay their capital Improvement Assessment over the next 40 years has this added to their water bill.

Once tiered water usage billing begins (presently set for October 2015) the Loan Assessment on your water bill stays the same and a new base fee will be set which includes some water usage and tiered rates for graduated water usage.

MEMBERSHIP WATER MEETING: HMC may provide a membership water meeting sometime in May 2015 if volunteers are available to organize and set up a presentation.

WATER LOT: Work continues at the Water Department Pump House lot. Some visual screening will happen with plantings set a distance from the fence. Painting and getting the ground prepared for locked gravel storage is progressing. Steve Kramer will share in the cost of establishing the roadway and parking area.

Northwest Water Systems have been the Water Manager for HMC for the past year. The Board and Water Committee will meet with them to discuss any changes or concerns.

Minutes written by Judy Greinke - Water Committee Chair