

MUD 18 Newsletter
April 2011
www.mcmud18.com

Congratulations to the first 100! Our March newsletter included a special offer to the first 100 customers who signed up for a free evaluation of their irrigation system. Within the first three days of the newsletter E-Blast we received over 100 requests. Those who responded after the first 100, have been put on a waiting list. As part of the free evaluation of their system, the homeowners will receive reports that can help them conserve water:

1. Repairs and enhancements to their system including a cost estimate for each item
2. Recommendations for timer settings for each zone in their system and frequency of running the system during 3 different times of the year that typically have different watering requirements. Considering size of the homeowners landscaped area, the recommended settings are calculated to deliver a target amount of water – no more than 1 inch per week. Based on a homeowner's actual usage, MUD 18 can provide feedback each month on how well the irrigation system is doing in meeting the target.



This offer was based on the experience of 8 homeowners who participated in a pilot project to track their water usage over a 10 month period so that we could learn more about practical ways to reduce water consumption. We learned that with careful attention to water usage, homeowners can reduce water consumption by as much as 25-30%. That's a lot of water! A key conclusion was that, unknowingly, the pilots were using way too much water to keep the landscape healthy and green, and in some cases twice the amount of water required for effective irrigation. The pilots discovered that the way to reduce irrigation is simple – keep your system in good repair and set the irrigation controller to deliver a target amount of water.

Thanks to the response to our special offer we will have 100 more Water Wise customers in our community. Stay tuned. We will continue to report learnings and results that can benefit all our customers

Construction of Water Plant No. 2 and Water Well No 3 to Begin: These facilities are necessary to serve growth in our District. Primarily to provide funding for these facilities, the District has sold bonds totaling \$4,580,000 at 4.499% net interest cost. This is \$920,000 less than previously estimated and reported in our October Newsletter. Due to MUD 18's strong A+ bond rating, we attracted better bidders even with the current market volatility. There will be no tax rate increase due to this bond sale.

The new water plant will be located behind the fire house on 1097. In the summer of 2010, MUD 18 drilled a test well on this site in the Catahoula aquifer. Based on the test results, hydro geologists projected the quantity of water in the Catahoula will be viable for a hundred years or more with no interference to the upper Jasper or Gulf Coast Aquifer. Bentwater is fortunately positioned to benefit from the Catahoula Aquifer. The quality of the water is excellent and will not require the expense of reverse osmosis treatment. Since this alternative groundwater source is significantly more attractive economically to MUD 18 than the SJRA plan and does not contribute to lake level drawdown, the Board commissioned Bleyl Engineering & Associates to design the facilities. This Catahoula well was presented as MUD 18's Alternative Water Source in the Groundwater Reduction Plan that we submitted to LSGCD to meet their April 1 requirement for water conservation planning. The engineering design plans have been approved by the TCEQ and LSGCD. Bids have been advertised and the low bids were awarded to Layne Christensen, Inc for the water well and Schier Construction Co for the water plant. Construction of the water plant should be completed by the end of the year.



During the period between well production and the end of 2016, the District may earn double early conversion credits from LSGCD. The early conversion credits have potential financial value to the District as other large volume users may need to access them to achieve their interim conservation requirements. MUD 56 has signed a contract with MUD 18 for potential future purchase of credits. Conversations continue with other interested districts.

Even with this good news, water conservation remains critically important to all of us.

We will provide updates on this project in future E-Blasts and newsletters.

Sign-up for E-Blasts: If you are not receiving our E-Blasts you are missing out on timely information, go to our website www.mcmud18.com and give us your email address. Your address will not be shared with anyone and you can unsubscribe at any time.



Need to report a Problem? Don't assume the problem has already been identified or reported. If you observe a water leak, sewer odor, discolored water, open manholes, alarms are sounding, or other problems, please help us by calling:

Hays Utility Service @ 936-588-1166.

Hays has someone in Bentwater every day, seven days a week. They can and will respond 24 hours a day. Their general office hours are from 8:00AM to 4:30PM Monday through Friday.

Meetings Open to the Public:

Our regularly scheduled monthly meetings are the **2nd Tuesdays at 2:30PM** in the Country Club Board Room. Meetings are open to the public. The agenda is posted on our web site and the message board in the breezeway entrance to the Country Club Grill near the Golf Pro-shop.

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