

MUD 18 Newsletter
March 2012
www.mcmud18.com

Board of Directors Election to be Held on May 12: The terms of two of the five positions on the Board expire in May. Incumbents Lou Tichacek and Chris Uzelmeier have filed for re-election. A third candidate, Rex Cambern has also filed as a candidate. To be able to vote, you must be a resident of Bentwater and a registered voter in Precinct 72. Qualified voters may vote for 2 of the 3 candidates. The election will be run by Montgomery County Elections Central. Early voting will be April 30 through May 4 at any of the Montgomery County election sites. On election day May 12, the voting location will be at the Montgomery City Hall. Details of the election, locations, times and profiles of each candidate will be provided in a follow-up mail out and e-blast message.



Debt Refunding yields \$251,000 in Net Present Value Savings: At our February meeting, the Board approved a proposal from First Southwest, our Financial Advisor, for a refunding of \$3,165,000 of bonds the District sold in 2001 and 2003. The total gross savings were \$321,611 with a total net present value of \$251,000, a 7.93% savings on the refunded bonds. Interest rates on the original bonds were between 3.5 and 4.5%; rates on the refunded bonds are between 2 and 3.5%. This attractive opportunity for refunding surfaced as a result of the increased demand for MUD bonds created by fewer bonds being sold by municipalities in the midst of general market turmoil. MUD 18's A+ bond rating, enjoyed by only a handful of MUD's in Texas, was a big advantage in the favorable economics of this refunding event.



Waste Water Utility Reservation Agreement: After months of negotiation, the Board signed an agreement with the developer and owner of Waterside Estates, Inc, a property adjacent to the west side of Bentwater. The developer owns 290 acres of land and intends to develop the property with 400 lots. Under the five year agreement (2012 through 2016), the Developer will, at his own expense, construct an approved wastewater collection system to connect to the District's waste water treatment system. Before the end of the five years, the Developer intends to construct a waste water treatment facility within his development. This reservation agreement allows the Developer to begin development prior to the treatment system being designed, approved by the TCEQ and made operational. This agreement is financially beneficial to MUD 18 without any costs to the District. Over the life of the agreement, the developer will pay the District \$300,000 regardless of whether any connections for waste water services are made. Additionally, a connection fee of \$6000 per house will be paid to the District at the time of connection. The monthly wastewater service rate for each serviced house will be three times the flat fee for in-district customers.

Water Plants Communicate with SCADA: To improve water plant operation a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA) has been installed at Water Plant #1. A SCADA system consists of hardware, software, data collectors, and controllers. The software is customized to allow the District's operator to remotely access, monitor, and control the District's water system. This is especially important in peak demand times, when properly managing well pumping and water storage becomes more critical to meet the needs of our water users. Other advantages include improved efficiencies in overall operations, and additional data collection which has become very important because of Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District requirements in managing the aquifers. A SCADA system will also be installed for the new Catahoula well and Water Plant # 2 and will be interconnected to the existing plant via remote radio transmitters. This interconnected SCADA control will allow the plants and wells to be operated most efficiently and reliably with current technology.



A Visit to the Waste Management Recycling Site: In February, the MUD 18 Board visited the Waste Management Recycling Plant in south Houston. We were impressed by the plant operation and the care with which they recycle materials to the specifications of the commodity markets that buy the recycled materials. In 2011, 32% of total household refuse in Bentwater was recycled. We are proud of residents' participation and know that we can continue to increase the ratio of recycled material in 2012.



Some recycling reminders:

Acceptable Items: juice boxes, glass bottles and jars, tin/steel cans (including large coffee cans), metal 2 ft or less in length, paper board, magazines, aluminum cans, 12" x 12" card board, newspaper, junk mail and plastic with codes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7). The top of the yellow lid has a table of acceptable items to serve as a handy quick reference guide.

Unacceptable Items: No wire. No wood. No foil. No plastic wrap. No plastic bags (even if marked with codes 2, 4 etc). Other unacceptable items: Styrofoam (plastic code 6, any type of flexible packaging such as film or shrink wrap. *Note: flexible bags can be recycled at most grocery stores, including Kroger and HEB.*



Please DO NOT bag recycled material - it interferes with the recycling process. Many residents have found that they save money by purchasing far fewer garbage bags they bought prior to recycling.



If you have a questions about your trash service, you can call Waste Management Customer Service Center @ 713-686-6666 or 800-800-5804. Or you can send an email with your question or complaint to cssatex@wm.com to receive a response within the same business day. If you have questions about curbside service or recycling, call the customer service center at 713-686-6666.

Recycling is good for the environment and good for our pocketbooks.

Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose

There will be no interruption in the trash pick-up schedule over the Easter holidays.

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 have any problems, such as a billing question, water leak, sewer odor, discolored water, open manholes, alarms sounding, etc., 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