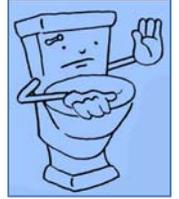


MUD 18 Newsletter
June 2016 – July 2016
www.mcmud18.com

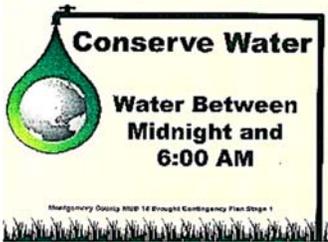
Catahoula Well #2 Update: The project is on track to be completed in October 2016. Once the new well is on-line, the plan is that all of the District's water will be produced from the Catahoula Aquifer. The additional water well and plant capacity will exceed minimum requirements for all of Bentwater's future water needs.

Lift Station Maintenance and Evaluation: We have 25 lift stations in Bentwater that transport untreated sewer to the wastewater treatment plant. Repair and maintenance of these lift stations is a large expense to the district, currently averaging \$32,000 per month. While some of this expense is expected from normal use of this type of equipment, it is important that residents watch what we flush down the toilets. Ordinary toilet paper is an organic material that disintegrates after flushing and before reaching the treatment plant. So called "flushable wipes" can be a problem. "Flushable" wipes are either made of a plastic fabric that does not disintegrate as it makes its way through the system or of a material that takes a relatively long time to breakdown. These materials can clog up a lift station as they make their way to the treatment plant. Plastics, including personal hygiene products and doggie refuse bags, are also potentially very damaging. Lift station equipment failures are an expense to all homeowners. The toilet is not a trash can. Please practice responsible flushing.



As part of planning for growth in Bentwater, a review is currently underway to evaluate several of the larger lift stations, to improve the flow characteristics of the pumps and force mains, and to verify that the pumps are properly sized to accommodate the growth in Bentwater. As of June 30, 2016, there are 1960 completed homes in Bentwater with 62 additional homes under construction or approved for construction, for a total of 2022 homes. Upgrades to identified lift stations will be made as required in 2016 and 2017 to service the projected demand in our District.

Summer Water Conservation Awareness: We have once again posted signs at major intersections reminding homeowners to voluntarily conserve water. Some may wonder why we are still encouraging water conservation now that, not only have we had a very wet spring, but we are also producing water from the Catahoula aquifer. We strongly believe that we all have a responsibility to protect the water supply for future generations. We must use water responsibly. It is the right thing to do. And it requires a change in our mindset and a conscious change in our daily use of water, especially our lawn irrigation practices. As a community we must continue to work hard to change old habits which lead to overwatering.



The Board's objectives during the summer months are to:

1. Encourage responsible water conservation while encouraging healthier lawns and landscapes. Please continue to actively manage your landscape irrigation system. *Watering between midnight and 6AM is healthier for your lawn and helps us maintain steady water pressure.* Water only as needed to encourage healthier root systems that can better tolerate both drought and freezing conditions. Overwatering undermines a healthy lawn.
2. Avoid exceeding the "safe operating conditions" of our wells. If current rainfall conditions change significantly during the summer months, such that our water supply facilities reach or exceed these conditions, mandatory water usage restrictions will be necessary. With the Catahoula well, our expanded storage capacity and everyone's attention to conservation, we can avoid mandatory restrictions.

Water conservation saves you money and protects our precious water resource.

Hurricane Season - Be Prepared: Hurricane season began June 1 and ends Nov. 30. MUD 18's *Homeowner Hurricane Information* was included with your June billing. This information includes guidelines for advance preparation and important advice for dealing with the aftermath of a storm, including communication procedures to provide access to the most reliable information on conditions within Bentwater. These guidelines are always available on our website at www.mcmud18.com.



If our area is identified to be in a storm's path, the National Hurricane Center, area news media and civil defense agencies will provide information and advice for residents in the upper Texas coast region. Issues

within Bentwater will be addressed by the POA and MUD 18. MUD 18 will focus on potential problems related to water supply, sewage treatment, garbage pickup and storm water drainage. The POA will serve as the Command Center and can mobilize a trained Community Emergency Response Team.

Prior to the start of the hurricane season, MUD 18 conducted inspections of all major storm drainage areas to ensure they are clear of any blocking debris. Neither residents nor their yard crews should ever dispose of yard debris in any of the natural drainage areas or in the storm drains as this can create serious issues in storm water drainage.

In recent years, MUD 18 has installed natural gas generators on our lift stations to provide sewer service during an extended power outage. In May, preventive maintenance with extended test run times was performed on all generators to ensure readiness to provide back-up power. Residents should understand the importance of minimizing use of water, minimizing the production of waste water and other helpful actions during a large storm event with an extended electrical power outage.

Take Action Early. Be considerate of neighbors. Stay informed. Be Safe.

Reminder - Recycle Container Placement is Important: Since automated trucks are most often used to lift and empty the recycle material into the truck, the container must be placed at the curb with the lid opening side facing the curb. There is a handy reminder embossed on the lid of the recycle bin. Very importantly, the recycle bin must have sufficient clearance from the trash bin to be accessed by the automated truck. We appreciate the continued increase in participating in recycling. Make the choice to recycle rather than add to a landfill.



Trash Pickup Schedule on Holidays. When a holiday falls on a Monday or Friday, do you ever wonder if we will have trash pick-up on the normally scheduled day? Although Labor Day falls on a Monday, WMS will provide regularly scheduled trash pick-up. The only holidays that Waste Management discontinues scheduled pick-up is on Christmas and New Year's. If you forget these holiday exceptions, you can always go to our web site www.mcmud18 and find the holiday pick-up schedule.



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.

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

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:

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------|
| Linda Pierce | President | 597-5463 |
| Lou Tichacek | Vice President | 597-7010 |
| Susan McFarland | Treasurer | 597-7503 |
| Rex Cambern | Secretary | 449-5761 |
| Gary Montgomery | Assistant Secretary | 597-9256 |

Please recycle this newsletter.