

MUD 18 Newsletter
August, September, October - 2017
www.mcmud18.com

Hurricane Harvey Experience: Compared to the experience of so many others in the Texas Gulf Coast area, MUD 18 had minimal impact from hurricane Harvey. Here is a summary of the service experience:

1. **Operations.** We had no loss of operational services. Even though we were prepared with natural gas generators on all major equipment, we did not have any interruption in power. Several lift stations experienced high water as lake reached record level of 206.22 feet. However, the water did not get high enough to reach the electronic controls, so lift station failures were avoided. Hays Utility did a great job in monitoring our facilities to anticipate issues.
2. **Drainage Improvements.** During the last year, the District invested in several major drainage improvements in Bentwater. Each of these drainage improvements worked very well. Thanks to Bleyl & Assoc for the design work on these robust improvements.
3. **Trash and Recycle Services.** We experienced some disruption in services, due to impact of Harvey in Waste Management's service areas of southeast Texas. Waste Management kept us informed and we were able to communicate with residents via E-Blasts. If you did not receive our notices, instructions for signing up are given in a later section of this newsletter. We thank all of our residents for their patience and understanding during these service interruptions.
4. **Web Site:** During the storm an attempt to go to our web site ended up at unfamiliar sites, one of which announced the site was for sale! Although the timing was bad, this issue had nothing to do with the storm. Our webmaster at Texas Networks resolved the error. The website has been operating well since then. Thanks for your patience.



2017 MUD Tax Rate: At our September meeting, your **MUD 18 Board voted to keep the tax rate at \$0.33 per \$100 of assessed value.** Your tax bill is

calculated partly by the tax rate and also by the certified assessed value of your home as determined by MCAD. Some homes received a reduction in assessed value, some remained the same, and others received an increase. The Montgomery County Appraisal District (MCAD) establishes the value of homes and property within the District as of the first of each year. In 2017, the certified value of property in the District was \$1,064 million an increase of 3% over 2016, primarily due to new construction. MUD 18 has never had to increase the tax rate. This chart shows the decline in tax rate in recent years.



The tax rate is composed of two components:

1. **Debt Service.** \$0.20 of the rate pays the interest and principal on outstanding bonds. This component has been decreasing over time. Since the District has not sold any new bonds since 2011 and earlier bonds are being paid off, the bond payments have been declining. Fortunately, we did not have to sell bonds to finance our second Catahoula well. The District was able to fund the well and additional plant facilities by selling half of our Jasper operating permit capacity and a significant amount of the early conversion credits we earned by our early conversion from the Jasper aquifer to our first Catahoula well.
2. **Maintenance and Operations (M&O).** \$0.13 covers maintenance of all our facilities including water plants, waste treatment plants, lift stations, storm drainage infrastructure and distribution lines. Not only have we increased our plant facilities, some of our major components are aging and require more maintenance. Moderate inflation in services and supplies add to the M&O expense. Accordingly, this component of our tax rate has had slight increases in recent years.

You should receive your 2017 tax bill in October. Your tax payment is due in January 2018. See the *Documents* section of our website for more information on tax rates and District financials.

Waste Treatment Plant Permit Renewed. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has inspected our water treatment facility and has renewed our permit through June, 2022. The TCEQ has the responsibility to ensure that treated wastewater complies with current standards. We are pleased with the renewal since this means we do not have to revise or upgrade our plant through the renewal period.

Recycle Update from Waste Management: Waste Management wants to thank Bentwater residents for their flexibility and patience post Hurricane Harvey. Service times may continue to be delayed or later than normal for several weeks due to increased volume, longer lines and increased utilization at disposal facilities. If service is not completed on the regularly scheduled day of service, collection will resume on the following morning.



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 street. There is a handy reminder on the lid of the recycle bin. Very importantly, the recycle bin must have sufficient clearance from your 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? 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 **3rd Tuesdays at 9:30AM** 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.