

Entranosa Water News

February 29, 2008

Board Officers. The Board of Directors met in a regularly scheduled meeting in January and elected officers for this year. They are:

President	Steve Varley
Vice President	Steve Hicks
Treasurer	Ron Bodo
Secretary	Carolyn Freeman

Fire Meeting. EMIFPA Fire Field Day will be held on Saturday, March 8th at Roosevelt Middle School from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sandwich lunch will be provided by Applebee's Grill and Bar, and reservations are required – you can contact Sue Hansen at Sue.Hansen@nm.nacdn.net. This is an opportunity get all of your 'fire' questions answered on topics like evacuation, your "go bag", providing support for the disabled, evacuation of animals, and related issues.

Water Hardness. We measured about 14 grains of hardness at the office on the morning of February 29th. The hardness of the water at your home will vary from this number – hardness throughout the system varies between 12 and 16 grains at this time of year. Assuming the weather continues like late February, we expect the hardness to remain in the current range until the middle of April and then it will start to rise as our pumping increases - topping out in late May, varying between 22 and 33 grains depending on where you live.

Water Use. Our pumping this past month was **less** than last year for the same period. The average residential meter consumed 4,863 gallons. The previous two years, the average residential use for February was 5,293 gallons in 2006, and 4,904 gallons in 2007.

Membership Value. Due to the increasing cost of water rights, storage (water tanks) and pipe, the Board (pursuant to the bylaws) has determined the cost of a membership is now \$6,500, and we will administratively increase its value at the close of business on Wednesday, April 30th, from \$6,000 to \$6,500.

Isolation Valves... and as you plan working outside in the spring – consider installing isolation valves (small ball valves) in the service line on your property. They will allow you to quickly turn off your water when it matters most, and facilitate your ability to troubleshoot leaks that may occur – while saving time, water, and damage.

Drought. We continue to monitor drought information from various sites on the web. The two most informative, for our purposes, are the US Drought Monitor, sponsored by the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor (for current information) and www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/exper_assessment/seasonal_drought (for predictive information). The data and graphics are intriguing.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG – IT IS THE LAW 260-1990 or 811

Line Leaks, Water Loss, and Water Supply

Leaks and Loss. As we mentioned in our newsletter at the end of January, we received hundreds of calls of ‘no water’ during the month. As we responded to those calls, we found some of them were due to our meters freezing, and we either thawed them out or replaced them; but most often there was a problem on the other side of the meter (the member’s side). In a few cases, we didn’t find a frozen line, but there were leaks. Given the weather and the extent of the freeze, including the lack of an insulating snow cover, (with unprecedented affects), we’ve associated almost all of those leaks with ice and frozen lines. A few, located in high pressure areas (with static pressures in excess of 140 pounds per square inch - psi) were due to a failure of our pressure reducing valves on the meter. Several of our members have suggested that their leaks were not caused by ice, nor by localized high pressure, but by a ‘hydro shock’ delivered throughout the system – an extremely high pressure wave (in excess of 280 psi) created by air in the lines induced by our fixing line leaks and, perhaps, slamming fire hydrants. We’ve thoroughly examined any possibility of a ‘hydro shock’ – the effects of which would be wide spread. While we did repair three small lines in January, we’ve concluded that there is not a reasonable basis, nor evidence, to support such a scenario – none of our pressure sensors in the system indicate such a cataclysmic event, we cannot identify an energy source that would create such a pressure wave, and the damage from such an event would have been universal (not spotty) – including the destruction of many of our water mains, our meter installations, yard lines to homes, and hot water heaters. After further consultation with our contract professional engineer and a review with the Board of Directors, our opinion is that, with minor exceptions, the leaks and reports of ‘no water’ were caused by freezing conditions and ice (which *can* exert the high pressures associated with a ‘hydro shock’), the age of the lines and fittings, and, in some cases, the quality of installation.

This past month, February, there were a few new leaks reported but these are most likely derivative from the freeze in January or soil movement driven by thawing earth, but our monthly production (always low in February) was below the norm of the past three years. Having said that – as temperatures continue to rise as Spring approaches, soils will move and some lines will move, and break, with them.

In the event you have a leak – please contact the office, and you may be eligible for a reduction in your water bill (depending on the circumstances) and for an extended payment plan. To qualify for such a reduction – repairs must be completed as soon as possible. Next month, we’ll publish the formal policy, approved by the board, dealing with these issues.

Water Supply. During the recent mayoral race in Edgewood, there have been references to ‘water supply’ and the condition of wells and water tables in our area. This is always an appropriate topic for public discourse but the facts can be misleading if not presented completely – which is the case in the Edgewood mayoral race. One candidate stated, “the main supply wells for Edgewood are dropping 5 to 6 feet per year”, but he left out the information in his possession that every well has its own characteristics – some wells DO drop that much, but he didn’t tell his audience that other main supply wells are dropping less than a foot a year, or that one well has risen. We’ve been able to construct deep wells, capable of withstanding the impacts of drought over time, that benefit from wet periods, and which have longevity in excess of 100 years – which is one of our strengths. There is no reason to believe that our supply of water is in jeopardy – it will be there.