

Main Lines

@ MCBWSD



March 2013

Celebrate ! The District Turns 50 !

The Mt Crested Butte Water & Sanitation District was formed on May 10, 1963 by an organizational decree at Gunnison District Court. The first Board of Directors consisted of Robert Appel, Sharon Johnson, Donald Giacconimi, Richard Eflin and William Johnson. Serving the public for 50 years doesn't come without compliments and challenges. Just ask our current District Manager, Frank Glick, who has been with the District for 38 of those 50 years. Quite an accomplishment. Stay tuned to our website, www.mcbwsd.com, for pictures, articles and information on celebrating 50 years of service. Let us know if you have a great idea for our celebration.

MLP Loan Payoff

During 2008-09 substantial capital projects were completed at Meridian Lake Park. The water treatment plant was upgraded to use a UV filter system and the pump station was constructed at the spillway. These projects together cost over a million dollars funded by the District. As MLP is considered a stand-alone system, the residents of that area bear the cost of capital construction upgrades. Using some MLP reserve funds, a surcharge of only \$25.00 per month per lot was issued to pay back the loan from the District. The three year surcharge ran from 2010 through 2012. Beginning with January 2013, this additional charge will no longer appear on the billing for MLP residents. Thank you all for paying your bills in a timely manner.

Winter & Frozen Lines

There have been numerous frozen water lines and sewer lines (not so common) during the

past few months. The bitter cold even caught the District with a frozen water line at the pump house and several frozen wastewater lift stations along with the main sludge line. Local contractors have been busy.

Tim On The Tank

We love the snow here in snow country, however, there are times it's more work than most people see. Here is Tim Seifert, Water Dept Supervisor, shoveling the beautiful white stuff off the roof of the main water tank, 30 feet high in the thin air. Yes, safety first, he has a harness on.



It may be hard work, but the views are awesome!



Visit us at:
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Water (or lack of)

By Tom Steuer, MCBWSD Board Member

Unless you're still in hibernation it's hard not to notice that the days are getting longer. The air temperature, while fluctuating, is definitely moving higher. I skied on Friday and witnessed a few in shorts and no tops. Relax, they were just young male spring breakers in some sort of rite of passage.

The point of my musing is spring is here which means summer is around the corner. Summer means many things to many people but since I am serving on the Mt. Crested Butte Water and Sanitation Board of Directors and writing this article in the newsletter, I think I'll limit the topics to one: WATER.

The phone has been ringing a lot at the water department lately concerning this subject. I've even heard some folks are wondering if there will be enough water to drink. I find this puzzling considering how many people drink bottled water even though our water, direct from the tap, has a higher quality than most bottled water.

Let's look at a few facts as of this writing. The snow pack in the Gunnison River Basin is 74% of normal and is only 94% of last year (a bad year). Water content is another matter. The water supply index ranges from +4 (abundant supply) to -4 (severe drought). Through February, the Gunnison basin is at -2.7, a little above moderate drought. Our immediate area is only slightly better.

Since the water district has only a limited ability to store water we gather our water from the mountain's aquifers and the East River. When these sources flow past Mt. Crested Butte they are gone forever.

The crux of the matter is we will start the high demand portion of our water year with enough supply to use the same irrigation policy as years past. That is: **5AM to 10AM** and **5PM to 10PM** daily. Whether this policy continues throughout the summer depends on several factors. How much more snow we get, will there be rain in May and June, and will the monsoon season be on time and abundant. Watch the newspaper or the website @ www.mcbwsd.com, we will keep you posted.

Website News



Visit the new page on our website, www.mcbwsd.com, for **100 Ways to Conserve Water**. A helpful 'tip of the day widget' is available as a convenient reminder.

Irrigation Time Soon

Irrigation is only permitted in Mt. Crested Butte and Meridian Lake as follows:
BETWEEN 5 A.M. - 10 A.M. & 5 P.M. - 10 P.M.*
**Mt. Crested Butte and Meridian Lake will begin this irrigation season with no extraordinary restrictions. If water consumption is excessive or dry conditions exist, irrigation could be restricted to alternate days.*

PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS: Any person violating any of the standard time restrictions set forth above shall be subject to the following fines:
1st Violation: Written Warning 2nd Violation: \$50
3rd Violation: \$100 4th Violation: \$250
Subsequent Violations: \$500 NOTE: Penalties will be enforced

Please restrict washing of open areas, such as driveways, streets and parking lots.

We'll start with the above regulations, but don't be surprised if a change comes quickly.

Flushable Stuff

Flushability has been an area of focus since the early 2000's. Flushability of wipe products, and non-woven fabrics, is a concern for wastewater plant operators. Many hours are spent by operators clearing and removing 'nondispersibles' from pumps and stations. Cleaning wipes, baby and facial wipes, and some paper towels are the source. Many manufacturers assess whether their products should be flushed into the wastewater stream, as everyone needs to be good, responsible stewards of our environment.

It is important that non-flushable products be labeled "No Flush". A clear communication on packaging could educate consumers and prevent problems at waste water treatment facilities. Check your containers/packages on which you are using. It's a toilet, not a trash can – there's a huge difference between "flushable" and "dispersible" items.

