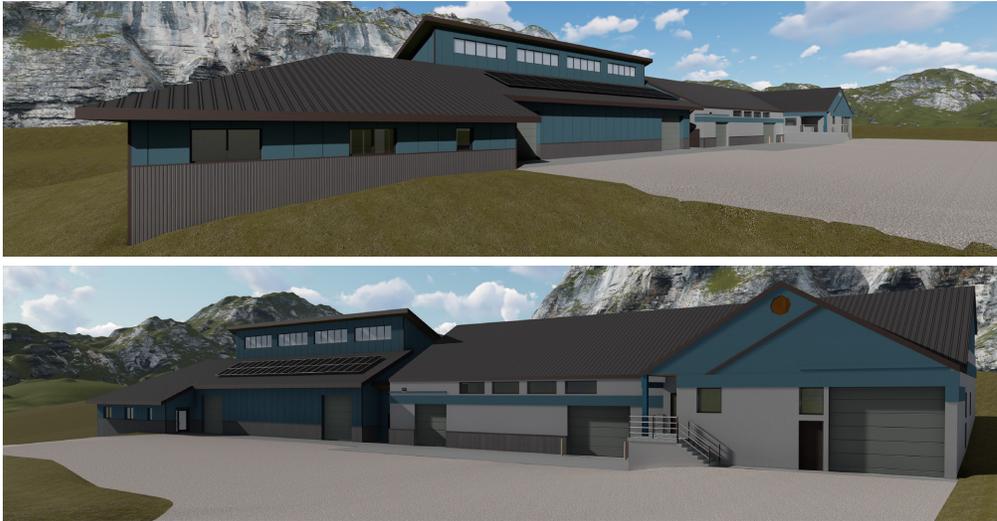


### CONSTRUCTION UPDATES Your Money at Work



#### Water Treatment Plant Expansion

The District's current water treatment plant was originally built in 1985. The total plant capacity is 700 gpm (1.0 MGD Million Gallons per Day), and it receives source water from the East River, Malensik Ditch, and several springs. The East River pump station was built in 1976 and pumps water through 4,500 linear feet of 8-inch ductile iron pipe. The project will replace the current pump station and add a redundant pipeline to the expanded plant. The new water treatment plant will increase the current capacity to 1.5 MGD as built, with a footprint designed to accommodate another .5 MGD, bringing total future capacity of 2.0 MGD. Construction on the project is scheduled to begin this summer and be completed in 2022. The project is estimated to cost \$23 MM to be financed by a loan from the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority (CWRPDA).

### FROZEN PIPES COULD BE A BIG PROBLEM, ONE THAT MAY BE PREVENTED

#### What's worse than a major home maintenance disaster?

Try several major home maintenance disasters at once. When a house's water pipes freeze, the situation is not as simple as calling a plumber. A 1/8-inch crack in a pipe can spew up to 250 gallons of water a day, causing flooding, serious structural damage, and the immediate potential for mold.

Frozen water pipes are a problem in both cold and warmer climates, affecting a quarter-million families each winter, and it can happen in homes with both plastic and copper pipes. It's all too common, especially considering this damage is largely preventable.

In addition to taking the usual preventive precautions, here are a few steps you can take to keep your pipes from turning frigid nights into inconvenient, and expensive ordeals.



**The three central causes of frozen pipes are quick drops in temperature, poor insulation, and thermostats set too low.**

#### Tips to help prevent pipes from freezing:

Insulate pipes in your home's crawl spaces and attic. Exposed pipes are most susceptible to freezing. Remember, the more insulation you use, the better protected your pipes will be.

Heat tape or thermostatically controlled heat cables can be used to wrap pipes. Be sure to use products approved by an independent testing organization, such as Underwriters Laboratories Inc., and only for the use intended. Closely follow all manufacturers' installation and operation instructions.

Seal leaks that allow cold air inside near where pipes are located. Look for air leaks around electrical wiring, dryer vents, and pipes, and use caulk or insulation to keep the cold out. With severe cold, even a tiny opening can let in enough cold air to cause a pipe to freeze.

A trickle of hot and cold water might be all it takes to keep your pipes from freezing. Let warm water drip overnight, preferably from a faucet on an outside wall.

Keep your thermostat set at the same temperature during both day and night. You might be in the habit of turning down the heat when you're asleep, but further drops in the temperature - more common overnight - could catch you off guard and freeze your pipes.

Open cabinet doors to allow heat to get to un-insulated pipes under sinks and appliances near exterior walls.

#### Ways to help avoid frozen pipes while on vacation (or between vacationers):

Travelling in the winter months might be a break in your routine, but don't forget to think about your pipes before you leave. What can you do?

Set the thermostat in your house no lower than 55°F (12°C). Also be sure to replace the battery in your thermostat.

Shut off and drain the water system. Be aware that if you have a fire protection sprinkler system in your house, it may be deactivated when you shut off the water.

#### Your pipes freeze, what might you do?

What if your pipes still freeze, despite your best preventive measures? First step: Don't panic. Just because they're frozen doesn't mean they've already burst. Here's what you can do:

If you turn on your faucets and nothing comes out, leave them on and call a plumber.

DO NOT use electrical appliances in areas of standing water. You could be electrocuted.

Never use an open flame. You may be able to thaw a frozen pipe using a hair dryer. Start by warming the pipe as close to the faucet as possible, working toward the coldest section of pipe.

If your water pipes have already burst, turn off the water at the main shutoff valve and leave the water faucets turned on. Make sure everyone in your family knows where the water shutoff valve is and how to open and close it.

### THIS DOESN'T HAVE TO HAPPEN TO YOU (but it can)

#### Imagine your drains, sinks and toilets running the opposite way.

It wouldn't just be water coming back through. It would include wastewater and raw sewage from your kitchen sink, washing machine, bath tubs and toilets. This is a common problem that as one would expect, is disgusting, time-consuming, costly, and can happen without warning.

In most cases, the cost of clean up lies with the homeowner and not the utility company, and basic homeowners insurance may not cover this type of incident. But don't worry, there are steps you can take to avoid this mishap, and prepare for it if it ever takes place.



### WHAT DO I DO IF I EXPERIENCE A SEWER BACKUP?

Follow these seven simple steps to contain the damage and start recovering:

- 1 Carefully try to close as many drains as you can, using extra care with ceramic plumbing fixtures.
- 2 Don't run water down any drains or toilets in your home until the clogs are cleared.
- 3 Check if neighbors are affected. This could indicate a problem in the main line.
- 4 Call a plumber to assist with clearing the issue and closing your drains.
- 5 Call your utility to report the issue. They'll recommend action and check the main line.
- 6 Call your homeowners' insurance company to determine what coverage may be available.
- 7 Call a contractor to clean and restore your home to a livable condition. Your insurance company should be able to recommend one.

### BECOME A BOARD MEMBER!

The MCBWS District is seeking candidates for Board of Directors. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, at 5:00 pm at the District Main Office in Mt. Crested Butte.

**Candidates MUST be:** Registered to vote in the State of Colorado AND at least one of the following:

A District resident of at least 30 days

A District property owner or

The spouse of a District property owner

**Interested?** Deadline is Friday, February 28, 5:00 pm, for self-nomination. Email [psolheim@mcbwsd.com](mailto:psolheim@mcbwsd.com) for self-nomination forms.

### CONSTRUCTION UPDATES Your Money at Work



#### Clarifier Project

The District expects completion of its new wastewater clarifier project in April of 2020. The clarifier project was undertaken to add capacity and redundancy to the current wastewater squircle clarifier. The squircle clarifier was designed to handle 1.2 MGD flow, and the current maximum month daily flow (MMDF) is approximately one-half of the design flow, resulting in a long sludge age. To meet CDPHE redundancy requirements and increase operational flexibility the district undertook the current project in the summer of 2019. The total cost of the project is expected to be \$2.6 million. The District elected to fund the project using capital reserves accumulated from plant investment fees rather than incurring new debt.



### GO PAPERLESS!

#### ONLINE BILL PAY AVAILABLE

Sign up today and see why so many people consider this the best way to pay their bills! Setup auto pay for an even more streamlined process, while still being able to track your monthly bill.

- 1 Go to [www.xpressbillpay.com](http://www.xpressbillpay.com)
- 2 Click on the **Sign Up** button at the top
- 3 Enter your **email** and create a **password**
- 4 Fill out the registration form and click **Next**
- 5 You'll receive a confirmation email. Open it and select **Verify Email** and then continue to **Log in**
- 6 Select your billing organization and follow the prompts to **link your bill**
- 7 Once your bill is linked, you can add another bill, pay online, or setup a recurring **auto payment** schedule