



White City Water Improvement District

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General Manager's Report

General Manager

Paul H. Ashton , J.D.

Board of Trustees

Paulina Flint, Chair

Arthur L. Kimball,

Vice Chair

James C. Hadlock, Clerk

Garry True, Treasurer

Dortha M. Robinson

The 2011 General Session of the Utah Legislature has ended and, as in the past, representatives of the White City Water Improvement District (“WCWID”) have been involved in monitoring and lobbying proposed bills of interest to WCWID and other independent Local Districts in Utah. As members of the Utah Association of Special Districts, WCWID is consulted by parties interested in water related issues to ensure that changes in the law will not have negative unintended consequences. For example, many of you may have heard news reports that some legislators this past year were introducing legislation to stop the Unified Police District from collecting “fees” for law enforcement services. As originally drafted the proposed bills could have eliminated WCWID’s ability to charge for water service on a monthly basis. Instead WCWID would have been compelled to collect for all of its needs through property taxes. Because this would go directly against WCWID’s mission to only charge for water used and to avoid property tax, WCWID and other districts worked with the sponsors of the proposed legislation to modify the bills to only apply to police and fire services. As a result of our efforts, and many others, the bills that eventually passed will eliminate the police fee on or before December 31, 2012 (giving time to transition to other funding sources) and modified the property tax code to allow the cost for police and fire to shift away from “fees.” In total, WCWID and the Utah Association of Special Districts (“UASD”), monitored and gave input to over 150 proposed bills being considered by the Utah Legislature. I want to thank everyone that was involved in the effort, including, without limitation, Art Kimball - a former State Senator- who serves on the UASD Executive Board, and Paulina Flint who serves as the Chair of the Association of Community Councils Together (“ACCT”). Both Mr. Kimball and Ms. Flint are elected members of your WCWID Board of Trustees. WCWID remains committed to maintaining the independence of the water system and ensuring that its Board of Trustees are free to continue to govern the system without need for property tax.

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With the coming of Spring, WCWID customers will start using water outside for gardens, lawns and other outdoor activities. Demand for water will dramatically increase and customer sprinkler systems will be turning on. WCWID has spent the Winter Months working on its wells and other infrastructure to ensure an adequate supply of water is available. WCWID has also been actively taking steps to ensure WCWID’s deep well water remains pure and pristine, without need of chlorination or other treatment. One such step has been working with Salt Lake County in implementing the County’s source protection ordinance which protects groundwater throughout the valley.

Another step is enforcement of WCWID' "cross connection" backflow prevention policy. As explained in greater detail in this newsletter, backflow may occur when water sprinklers turn on and off. The policy applies to all water users within WCWID's service area. In addition, for newer subdivisions and other property owners that have modified or upgraded their sprinklers and water lines, since adoption of the policy, backflow prevention assemblies have been required to be placed on those water lines. Where such assemblies exist, the assemblies must be inspected and approved prior to turning on sprinkler systems. This must be done every year. The inspection must be performed by a Certified back flow technician (a list is available at WCWID's office). Those property owners WCWID know to be subject to this part of the Cross Connection backflow prevention policy will be receiving letters from WCWID within the next few weeks. The letters will explain in more detail what is required.

Back flow is defined as: "The undesirable reversal of flow of water or mixtures of water and other liquids, gases or other substances into the drinking water system. Occurs due to a pressure differential between two points within a continuous fluid system." Back flow can occur where there is a cross connection between the public drinking water system and other pipes (like a sprinkler system), or other source of water, industrial fluid, gas or other substance, that can flow into the drinking water system as a result of pressure changes. (As a simple illustration, think of a siphon hose.) The dangers of back flow is such that the State Division of Drinking Water has approved the following Rule to apply to Public Water Systems:

Rule 309-105-12: "[A] water supplier shall not allow a connection to his system which may jeopardize its quality and integrity. Cross connections are not allowed unless controlled by an approved and properly operating backflow assembly. The requirements of Chapter 6 of the 2000 International Plumbing Code and its amendments as adopted by the Department of Commerce under R156-56 shall be met with respect to cross connection control and backflow prevention." The Division Rules go on to require Public Water Systems to adopt enforcement regulations, train their staff on backflow prevention, and make the public aware of its dangers.

Pursuant to the Rules, the District has a Cross Connection Program in place which requires us to do an inventory of existing backflow prevention assemblies in our system and have them available for review by the State. As new sprinkling systems are installed, or existing systems are modified, they must have an backflow prevention device and the device must be noted on the inventory. Consequently, if you have a backflow prevention device/assembly, but do not receive a letter from the District, please contact us to let us know of its location. Thank you.

Construction Update

Starting on or about April 14, 2011, WCWID will commence work on Phase II of the Mumford Drive pipeline upgrade project. It will consist of placing a 10 inch new pipeline from Elswood to Mumford Circle and then a new 8 inch pipeline into the circle. WCWID hopes to finish the project within 45 days of start. Notices of road closures and interruption to water service will be provided to affected property owners. As always, we appreciate everyone's patience as we move forward to upgrade and improve the water system.