

News Around The Water Tower

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

MAY 1, 2008

Rural Water District No. 2 Miami County, KS 25290 Harmony Road Paola, KS 66071

New Billing Statements

Conservation Tips

- Install a low flow showerhead and save up to 500 gallons a week.
- Turn the water off while you shampoo and condition your hair and you can save more than 50 gallons a week
- Take shallow baths
- Turn the water off while you brush your teeth and save 4 gallons a minute.
- Time your shower to keep it under 5 minutes and you'll save 1,000 gallons a month.

Board of Directors

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- Dr. Art Godfrey-Chairman Jim Dycus Vice-Chairman Wayne Knop-Secretary Edward Kluber-Treasurer James Bracken Alan Hire Jerry Hefling
- Ron Flaigle

Mike McClurg

Rural Water District No. 2 has consistently tried to keep up with the times. Last year we were pleased to provide you with a web site and online payments. We also were able to allow patrons different avenues for payments: check, credit card, automatic draft. As you have seen with this newsletter, your statement format has changed from the card style to a full page statement with a return envelope enclosed with each statement. The bottom portion of the statement detaches to return with your payment.

The information on the statement is the same as what was on the card you have previously received. We just changed the size and

format. We hope the letter style statements are easier for you to read. It allows us the convenience of sending you the return envelope. If you have been paying your monthly bill online, by automatic draft or by bank online bill pay a return envelope will not be included with your monthly statement. This will help us keep the cost down and reduce waste. If at anytime you change your method of payment let us know and we will send you an envelope with future statements.

We mail the statements out each month on the last working day of the month. You should receive your statement by the 3rd or 4th day of the next month. Payments are due in the District Office by the 16th of the month. We hope by mailing the statements out in envelopes, the number of lost and damaged statements will be greatly reduced.

The new format also gives us the capabilities to include information on District happenings, upcoming construction projects and other important information the District staff and directors need to share with the patrons.

Let us know how you like the new statements. We are always anxious to hear how we are doing and looking for any suggestions that will allow us to serve you better.

Meet the District Staff

Rural Water District No. 2, Miami County, KS currently serves 3530 patrons with 650 miles of pipeline which covers approximately two-thirds of Miami County. The District also provides water to three additional Rural Water Systems and one city. All of this is done by eight full time and one part time employee. The District has a very competent and well trained staff to assist you with any problems that may occur. District managers are Jerry Bennett, General Manager and Lana Kettler, Business Manager. The Plant Operator is Woody Farmer. Maintenance Supervisor is Jim Shore, Brian Vance and Troy Feris are the Maintenance Technicians in the field. In the front office there is Sandra Morgan and Beth Prothe, Administrative Assistants, to help with all your questions and concerns. Tyler Moore is the part-time maintenance tech. District personnel prides itself on customer service and we are always happy to lend a hand.



District Court Case RWD#2 Vs Louisburg

A final judgment has been written by Chief District Judge Richard M. Smith in our dispute with the city of Louisburg regarding service territory granted to the Water District by the Miami County Commission in 1966. His decision was to uphold the finding that RWD #2 should only be awarded \$133,000 of the \$13,000,000

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requested by the District. A similar dispute with the City of Paola has been successfully resolved through a nonmediabinding tion process without court intervention. The lawsuit with Louisburg has

been ongoing for approximately two years and was required since Louisburg would not agree to negotiate on which entity would serve annexed territory. These courses of action are important to the District because significant District funds were spent to provide infrastructure to supply water to current and potential customers in the areas under dispute.

The Water District does not agree with the final judgment made by the District Court and intends to appeal the decision to the State Supreme Court. The basis for this appeal consists of addressing the substance of two points made by Judge Smith in support of his decision:

1. That RWD #2 failed to prove to the court through previous testimony that the \$133,000 awarded by the court was unreasonable. (Our position on this finding is that we were unable to argue the unreasonableness of the award since the Judge would not allow a hearing to discuss the issue.)

2. That the law in this matter does not require compensation unless "undisputed evidence" demonstrated that compensation is necessary to make the value reasonable. (The "undisputed evidence" in this case is that 300 current customers of RWD #2 are in annexed territory, and this fact was not considered by the court.)

Over the past decade, the District has been able to reduce the cost of water production by ordering treatment chemicals in bulk and by the addition of wholesale and retail customers. The District has been aggressively pursuing wholesale customers which currently include the City of Spring Hill, Franklin County RWD #1, Miami County RWD #1 and the City of Edgerton. Johnson County, RWD #7 has been a large wholesale customer since the plant was built in 1985. This District has expanded its retail customer base to just over 3,500 benefit unit holders. The District feels that it is imperative to retain the existing water service area and not lose these critical service areas to the cities. Workable agreements can be reached. Years ago, plans were made and implemented, and millions of District funds were invested to upgrade the infrastructure to serve these areas and other critical areas of Rural Water District No. 2. For these reasons your Water District has had to seek court intervention to prevent erosion of District service areas.

The District is in the process of replacing pipeline in the south central portion of the county to improve service to customers. A major expansion in northern Miami County that will include a one million gallon water tower is in the planning stages. This expansion is required to replace the central zone water tower. The new tower will become the primary water storage for the central zone of the water district. There are also plans to procure auxiliary power generation capabilities at the plant and raw water pumping station to protect the supply of water during a serious weather event.

Miami County Rural Water District No. 2 continues to keep its patrons' best interest in mind. You are the number one priority as the district plans for the future. Water is a necessity that everyone enjoys and we are committed to providing the best quality water at the most economical price.

Why Is My Water Off?-

This problem arises occasionally and it usually means one of three things.

- The District has shut the water off for some reason.
- You might have a leak.
- Or in the winter months your meter or pipes may be frozen.

You can call into the District Office or the after hours emergency number to report the problem. The phone might be busy with others having the same problem, but keep trying. We need to know! At various times it is nescessary for the District to shut the main line valves off to repair a leak, add new lines and meters or test pipe pressure. We know that this is an inconvenience to you, but it must be done and we do appreciate your patience and cooperation. It is impossible to contact large numbers of custormers when something takes place.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Closed Saturday & Sunday Telephone Number - 913-783-4325 Fax Number - 913-783-4375 After Hours Emergency - 913-783-4325

follow the prompts.

Web Site - ruralwater2mico.com

For your convenience, after hours payments may be made online or at your own risk in the drop box at the District Office.

