

# Water Currents

Highland Lakes Water District

*Providing quality drinking water to residents of Highland Lakes*

Volume 24 Issue 1

Spring 2024

## President's Message

Friends and neighbors, there are several changes in our water system that are noteworthy. As I mentioned in last quarter's newsletter, your board of directors has been focused on reducing the amount of treated water being lost in the delivery / distribution system. Our previous loss rate was estimated to be 28 – 30 gallons per minute. Our most recent loss rate is estimated at 9 – 10 gallons per minute. This is a considerable improvement but our work reducing treated water loss is not finished. We will be resuming leak detection efforts in the Shawnee Lake, Twin Lakes and Pamona Lake area this month. Another change in our system is that our wells have not been delivering an adequate amount of water to the treatment plant. There are a few wells that we suspect have a leak in the raw water delivery system, but most of our wells are experiencing slow recharge times. You are probably thinking that with all the snow that we have seen this winter, how is this possible? The reality is that most of the moisture from the snow is still trapped towards the surface by 5 – 6 feet of frost / frozen decomposed granite. When warmer weather shows up, we should see a significant improvement in reduced recharge times.

It is with regret that I inform you that our Operator, Louis Lemmon, has tendered his letter of resignation to the board due to unforeseen family matters. Your board of directors is aggressively pursuing a qualified and suitable replacement. We wish Louis and Candice all the best and many thanks for their efforts and work over the past five months.

## Water Meter Replacement

HLWD will continue to replace old meters that are due for an upgrade in 2024. These meters will be replaced by District employee, Augie DeJoy.

It usually takes about 30 minutes to replace the water meter which is inside your home. If your water meter is one that needs to be replaced, Augie will contact you to

GWUDI Project update: We have received final approval from CDPHE / State of Colorado on the plans and specifications for our GWUDI treatment project. We will be advertising the project scope and reviewing bids as next steps. Actual construction is expected to begin mid-May.

For those individuals that helped us out last year for the required Lead & Copper testing, you can expect another request for your assistance in May. We thank you for your past assistance and will be very grateful for your continued support.

Last item, I wanted to share with you a conversation that I had with one of our excavators. His father had been in the septic system business for many years in Teller County. He is retired now and remains well known and respected in Teller County. One element in our conversation was the wide range of our resident's level of understanding regarding septic systems. Some folks are fully informed due to sticker shock in having to replace a system that was not properly maintained and then some individuals are only aware that they have one. Please know that having your septic system serviced on a regular basis can save thousands of dollars. Replacing a system can cost as much as \$20,000.00. If you have not had your septic system serviced during the last three years or so, do yourself a favor and get some cost estimates yourself. There is a big cost difference between the old anaerobic systems and what Teller County now requires.

Thank you,  
Ken Morford, President

set up a time for replacement. If you would like to initiate the replacement of your water meter, call Mary Schnierle, Office Manager at (719) 687-7937.

There will be no associated costs to the homeowner for the replacement of the water meter. This effort is part of a HLWD proactive systematic approach, to identify potential water issues and address them before they cause a major issue. Your cooperation is always appreciated.

## DIY Water Meter Check

*By Skip Withrow*

From time to time a HLWD customer will dispute the amount of water used/billed and would like their meter checked. Although, it is far more common for a meter to run slow (under bill) or stop (at least we can spot those) than to run fast (and over bill). Turns out it is simple for the customer to do, so here's a 'How To' if you would like to give it a try.

First, a calibrated volume is needed. A five-gallon bucket is convenient; however, it is important to find the five-gallon level. Using a large measuring cup to fill a one-gallon jug and then using the marked jug to measure five gallons and marking your bucket are important. Most five-gallon buckets have a molded ring several inches from the top which should be pretty close to your mark.

The next step is to physically read your meter. HLWD has two styles of meters, what we call 'old' and 'new'. The older meters have a readout that looks like an old car odometer with numbers that roll over. The new meters have a plastic cover on the top that can be lifted to show an LCD display that reads in hundredths (.01) gallons.

-Write down the number on the meter.

-Then fill your bucket to the five-gallon mark.

-Go back and read the meter again.

The number should be five gallons higher (or very close to it). If it reads substantially higher or lower please give HLWD a call so that we can correct the situation. Finally, you paid for the water in that bucket, so don't waste it! Please help conserve HLWD water by using your test water for watering indoor plants, flushing the toilet a few times, or even dumping it in the washer if you are doing a cold-water wash.

## Caring for Your Septic System

Here are some helpful tips from the EPA on caring for your septic system:

### **Inspect and Pump Frequently**

The average household septic system should be inspected at least every three years by a septic service professional. Household septic tanks are typically pumped every three to five years. Alternative systems with electrical float switches, pumps, or mechanical components should be inspected more often, generally once a year. A service contract is important since alternative systems have mechanized parts.

### **Use Water Efficiently**

The average indoor water use in a typical single-family home can be as much as 70 gallons per individual, per day. Just a single leaky or running toilet can add as much as 200 gallons of water per day.

All the water a household sends down its pipes ends up in its septic system. The more water a household conserves, the less water enters the septic system. Efficient water use improves the operation of a septic system and reduces the risk of malfunctions.

### **Properly Dispose of Waste**

Whether you flush it down the toilet, grind it in the garbage disposal, or pour it down the sink, shower, or bath, everything that goes down your drain ends up in your septic system. What goes down the drain affects how well your septic system works.

### **Maintain Your Drain Field**

Your drain field—a component of your septic system that removes contaminants from the liquid that emerges from your septic tank—is an important part of your septic system. Here are a few things you should do to maintain it:

**Parking:** Do not park or drive on your drain field.

**Planting:** Plant trees the appropriate distance from your drain field to keep roots from growing into your septic system. A septic service professional can advise you of the proper distance, depending on your septic tank and landscape.

**Placing:** Keep roof drains, sump pumps, and other rainwater drainage systems away from your drain field area. Excess water slows down or stops the wastewater treatment process.

**Source article and additional information can be found here:**

'How to Care for Your Septic System',  
<<https://www.epa.gov/septic/how-care-your-septic-system/>>

# GWUDI - HLWD Public Notice

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Highland Lakes Water District

### Failed to Provide Adequate Treatment

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. As our customers you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

The state drinking water program required us to filter the water in addition to disinfecting by 3/15/2023.

We are required to install this filtration because our source water contains surface water (lake or stream). Alternatively, we can choose to use another water source that does not contain surface water. We have not yet met this requirement.

We do not know of any cases of contamination. However, until improvements are made, there is an increased chance that disease-causing organisms could contaminate the water supply. Filtration with disinfection is the best method for removing these organisms.

### What does this mean? What should I do?

- **You may want to use an alternative drinking water supply (e.g. bottled). If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.** A home filter will not necessarily solve the problem, because not all home filters protect against parasites. Call NSF International at 1(800) NSF-8010 or the Water Quality Association at 1(800) 749-0234 for information on appropriate filters.
- Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. These symptoms are not only caused only by organisms in drinking water, but also by other factors. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to consult your doctor.
- If you have an infant, severely compromised immune system, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your doctor about drinking this water. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by bacteria and other disease-causing organisms are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

### What is being done?

- This situation is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately.
- We have hired an engineering firm to design a new water filtration system to address the problem. We have been maintaining a 2.0 chlorine residual to ensure the water is safe. We were typically around a 1.0 residual and never had an issue. The EPA has determined we need this filtration to keep the water safe. We only had 18 months to get funds and get design done which is a tight timeline for a project of this size. We were successful in obtaining two grants for this project. The first grant was for the basic design and engineering portion and the second part was for the construction aspects. We should be starting construction this year. You will receive a public notice every quarter until it's complete. This will update you on our progress and a timeline to be completed.

We anticipate resolving the problem by **June 2025**. For more information, please contact **Louis Lemmon** at **Waterlou.LL@gmail.com** , or the **Highland Lakes Water District** at **(719) 687-7937**.

*\*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.\**

This notice is being sent to you by: Highland Lakes Water District - C00160200 Date distributed: **4/4/2024**



3136 Blue Mesa Dr. • Divide, Colorado 80814  
Phone 719-687-7937

## Water Currents

The Highland Lakes Water District  
Volume 24, Issue 1 Spring 2024

### Newsletter Editor:

Evan Leskovec  
Divide, CO 80814  
E-Mail: [Elesko419@gmail.com](mailto:Elesko419@gmail.com)

### Meetings

The HLWD Board of Directors meets at 6:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month in the HLPOA Community Building. Highland Lakes owners and residents are welcome.

## Important Phone Numbers

Mary Schnierle - Office Manager (719) 687-7937  
**Emergency Number (719) 247-1191**

### Board Members

Ken Morford - President  
Melinda Moyn - Secretary  
Brian Dillon - Treasurer  
Greg Winkler - Operations Mgr.  
Evan Leskovec - Public Relations

### Water Operator

Louis Lemmon (Waterlou LLC)