

# Water Currents

Highland Lakes Water District

*Providing quality drinking water to residents of Highland Lakes*

Volume 23 Issue 4

Winter, 2023

## President's Message

Friends and neighbors, as I am writing this and reflecting on what has transpired within our community since our last Water Currents edition, one recent event "The Christmas Water Outage" stands out. Many if not all of us were inconvenienced by this outage and the timing could not have been worse. Many of us had family and friend gatherings to celebrate the holidays which were disrupted with no water. Like most operating systems, our wells, treatment plant and distribution systems are all subject to failure. The HLWD Board of Directors are all committed to providing our community with safe drinking water on a consistent basis, however, unforeseen events have and most likely will continue to happen which may disrupt water service. An old saying "most people do not plan to fail, they fail to plan" seems to be the case for several of us. Personally, I have seen numerous events that are disruptive to the normal routine of life (blizzards, electrical and water outages to name a few) which are made less painful with plans in place. Having water in storage to flush toilets, drinking and cooking water made life much easier during this past outage. Think ahead – plan for "what if....".

As for what has been going on with your Water District since our last newsletter, there are several changes to mention. It is my pleasure to inform you that Greg Winkler (long term resident of Highland Lakes) has accepted the position on our board as Operations Director. Greg comes to the board with prior water board experience as well as extensive work experience with Teller County and the State of Colorado.

Another significant effort that our board took on was to evaluate and assess the current state of the Water District. It became apparent that there were several areas where operational reporting requirements, maintenance, and repairs were being neglected. This assessment determined that we needed to make a change with the water operator. I am pleased to announce that Louis Lemmon (Waterlou LLC) is our new water operator. Louis has many years of experience in the water industry, meets and exceeds

our required licensing credentials and is well respected in the water treatment/service industry.

One major area of opportunity that became a top priority for the board as part of the assessment, was to address the amount of treated water being lost (leaks) in the distribution system. The board has entered into an agreement with Artisan Consulting LTD to provide a leak detection system that will determine the specific location, number of leaks within a given area as well as the leaks being small vs large. Artisan Consulting LTD will install the equipment in a zone (as directed by the board) and gather data from the equipment that will generate a report of all the leaks within that given zone. Artisan will then redeploy the equipment to the next zone while our board will work with multiple vendors to repair the leaks or if needed, replace sections of the main line. As many of you are aware, the Water District has hired third party vendors over the past several years to haul water into our subdivision. The cost to haul water into Highland Lakes is substantial and very disruptive. We are confident that by repairing the leaks in our distribution system, our wells will be more than sufficient to meet our demand.

GWUDI Project update: The "Basic Design and Engineering" review process is nearing completion. We expect the state to finalize their approval within the next thirty days or so at which point the project will go out to bid. The construction phase was scheduled to begin March of 2024 but may be delayed due to the extended BDR process.

Last item, I would like to thank several community members that volunteered to assist us during the water outage. Your efforts were greatly appreciated.

MANY THANKS!!

Ken Morford, President

## Communication Efforts

With the recent events, I wanted to review the various forms of communication made by the Highland Lakes Water District:

- Formal Communication is handled through US Mail.
- For quick updates and timely communication, HLWD uses our email distribution list.
- We do not formally communicate on behalf of Highland Lakes Water District on social media. Those who re-post emails are welcome to do so.

Over the holidays, many new emails were added to the distribution list. We are happy to add family members, renters, or property management to that distribution as well. If you still feel you are not getting emails and should have been added to the list, please email me directly at elesko419@gmail.com or call the office at (719) 687-7937.

Here are a few other tips for those who may not have full access to all communication sources:

1. If you do not have a computer or internet / email access, please contact a friend or neighbor that does receive email communications from the District and request that they call you to share the email information.
2. Please make sure that the Water District has a good telephone number listed on your account.
3. If you rent or lease your house, please make sure that your tenants have a way to receive the information in Water District emails.

## 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 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.

## Highland Lakes Water District Transparency Notice

Pursuant to section 32-1-809, Colorado Revised Statutes for Transparency Notices may be filed with Special District Association of Colorado. This information must be provided annually to the eligible electors of the district no later than January 15 of each year.

\*Note that some information provided herein may be subject to change after the notice is posted.

### District's Principal Business Office

**Company** Highland Lakes Water District

**Contact** Mary Schnierle

**Address** 5721 Canyon Reserve Heights, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80919

**Phone** 719-687-7937

### Regular Board Meeting Information

**Location** Highland Lakes Community Building

**Address** 276 Deer Lake Circle, Divide, CO 80814

**Day(s)** Third Tuesday of each month

**Time** 6:00 PM

**Posting Place for Meeting Notice Location:** Three Bulletin Board Locations

**Addresses** Intersection of Cty Rd 512 and Blue Mesa, Intersection of Cty Rd 512 and Twin Lakes Dr, East end of Elk Lake, Divide, CO 80814

**District's Physical Location**

**Counties** Teller

**Current District Mill Levy**

**Mills** 5.506

**Ad Valorem Tax Revenue**

**Amount** \$69,551.00

**Date of Next Regular Election:** 05/06/2025

**Names of District Board Members:**

Position	Name	Contact Info	Election
Board President	Ken Morford	kmorford54@yahoo.com	<b>No</b> , this office will not be on the next regular election ballot.
Secretary	Melinda Moyn	melindamoyn@gmail.com	<b>Yes</b> , this office will be on the next regular election ballot.
Treasurer	Brian Dillon	brian.andrew.dillon@gmail.com	<b>No</b> , this office will not be on the next regular election ballot.
Director of Operations	Gregory Winkler	gregdivide@yahoo.com	<b>Yes</b> , this office will be on the next regular election ballot.
Director of Public Relations	Evan Leskovec	elesko419@gmail.com	<b>Yes</b> , this office will be on the next regular election ballot.

**Board Candidate Self-Nomination Forms**

Any eligible elector of the special district who desires to be a candidate for the office of special district director must file a self-nomination and acceptance form or letter with the designated election official.

**Deadline for Self-Nomination Forms**

Self-nomination and acceptance forms or letters must be filed not less than 67 days before the date of the regular election.

**District Election Results**

The district's election results will be posted on the website of the Colorado Secretary of State ([www.sos.state.co.us](http://www.sos.state.co.us)).

**Permanent Mail-In Voter Status**

- Absentee voting and Permanent absentee voter status (formerly Permanent Mail-In voter status) can be obtained from: Melinda Moyn  
1747 Blue Mesa Drive Divide, CO 80814
- Applications for absentee voting or for permanent absentee voter status are available from and must be returned to the Designated Election Official:  
Melinda Moyn (Designated Election Official)

**Pursuant to 24-72-205 C.R.S**

The district's research and retrieval fee is **\$25.00** per hour

**District Policy**

Requests for copies of records or research will be made to the Office Manager by calling 719-687-7937. The Office Manager will notify the President of the Board of Directors of the specifics of the request. The President will either perform the research or copy requested documents or appoint a member of the board to perform the task. Once the requested information is gathered it will be transferred to the Office Manager for mailing to the requesting party. There will be a cost recovery fee of \$25.00 per hour or portion thereof for records research, copying, printing and refiling and a \$.25 per page fee for printing. Payment must be received by the Office Manager prior to release of the requested documents.

District contact information for open records request: Mary Schnierle

**Notice Completed By**

*Name* - Mary Schnierle | *Company/District* - Highland Lakes Water District

*Title* - Office Manager | *Email* - [highlandwater@msn.com](mailto:highlandwater@msn.com) | *Dated* - 12/22/2023

# 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: **1/8/2024**



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

## Water Currents

The Highland Lakes Water District  
Volume 23, Issue 4 Winter 2023

### 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)