

WATER DISTRICT PLANT EXPANSION MOVING FORWARD

The work on the district's \$4,040,000 water treatment plant expansion started in late Fall, 2017. It was hoped that the then-upcoming winter would be a mild one so that construction could continue. However, we know now that the winter was anything but mild with cold temperatures and gusty winds. However, the contractor (Leander Construction, Inc.) was able to get a few things done before the project had to be shut down in early December. The lime sludge lagoons now have a much larger storage capacity and much of the new underground piping was completed.

After a two-month shutdown due to winter weather outside work has resumed on the expansion at our Hazlett Road treatment facility. However, the winter was not a complete loss since the contractor was able to install much of the interior improvements in the existing building. The old treatment plant tanks have been removed, electrical conduit has been installed, and the four separate chemical rooms have been framed up.

On a sentimental note, one of the tanks that was removed was the first Clari-Cone that was ever installed for commercial work in the world. The Clari-Cone was invented by Mr. Dave Wyness, a former CWLP water supervisor and later an engineer with the local engineering firm of Crawford, Murphy, & Tilly. Mr. Wyness's invention changed the way that water operators could treat water and is now found in water facilities all over the globe.

With the warmer weather the company has been able to move the project forward at an accelerated pace. The plant footings have been poured as well as the support foundation for the new clarifier tank that will be capable of treating up to 1000 gallons of water per minute when the project is completed.

After most of the large tanks and piping are installed the contractor will extend the existing building to the west to house the new components. New chemical feeding equipment as well as a new electrical control panel will then be installed. The remainder of the project will include stairs and catwalks to enable our operators to monitor the condition of the water being treated in the clarifier. Finally, the refurbishing of the outside grounds will be performed along with the replacement of the security fence.

The project has a final completion date of February 2019.

NEW CURRAN-GARDNER/NEW BERLIN EMERGENCY INTERCONNECTION PUT TO TEST

For over ten years the two governing boards of your water district and the Village of New Berlin had intermittently discussed the possibility of installing an emergency interconnection between the two water systems. This interconnection would serve as a back-up water source in the event one of the two systems experienced a problem that would prevent it from meeting its customers' water needs. While such outages may be rare they do occur.

The earlier discussions were beset by board disagreements and arguments. However, in 2014, two forward-thinking boards agreed about the great need for such an interconnection and worked together for it to happen. An intergovernmental agreement was signed in 2016 approving the construction of the project with both parties paying fifty percent of the total costs.

Construction began in the Fall of 2016 and consisted of a disinfection unit, two booster pumps, and several hundred feet of water main. The final Illinois Environmental Protection Agency operating permit was issued in May 2017. The benefits of this construction are felt every day in the western portion of our water distribution system with better chlorine residuals and higher system pressure.

One of these rare outages occurred just six months later on December 6, 2017 when the water main that provides water from the South Sangamon Water Commission (SSWC) to the village of New Berlin was severed by a bridge construction crew. Immediate repairs to the main were not possible since the water main needed to be relocated due to the bridge construction. Our staff met with New Berlin water operator Garrett Kemp and we turned on the spigot from our system to theirs without missing a beat. Since that time, we have sold 90,000-100,000 gallons of water per day to the village.

As of the day that this article was written, it appears that the SSWC line will be repaired and placed back into service in the middle of April. One can only imagine what the village would have done for water for over four months if the two boards had not agreed on doing the right thing. This agreement can be considered a really good insurance policy with available benefits (and water) to both parties.

IT'S CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT TIME AGAIN!!

Each year we provide you our customers with an updated Consumer Confidence Report (also known as the Annual Water Quality Report). This report contains important information about your water supply such as where we obtain your water, a source water assessment of your water, and other educational materials. It also shows the contaminants found in your drinking water during 2017 and the levels of each. We are happy to announce that all contaminants are well below the allowed limits. Additionally, **NO Lead** was found in any of our samples collected in 2017. We want to point this out since Lead in drinking water has been in the news so often recently.

To view this year's Consumer Confidence Report you can go the following URL address: www.ilrwa.org/CCR/CGTPWD.pdf

If you would like to receive a hard-copy of this report, please stop by our business office during regular business hours (8:00 am to 3:30 pm) or call 217-546-3981 and a copy will be mailed to you. Any questions may be directed to Operations Manager Wayne Nelson at 217-820-1561.

We also have some customers that receive their drinking water from the City of Springfield (CWLP) or the South Sangamon Water Commission (SSWC). If you are one of these customers you have received (or soon will receive) a hard-copy of your Consumer Confidence Report via the U. S. Mail. If you have questions regarding your report please feel free to also call 217-820-1561

2018 Plant Improvement Rate Assessment Schedule:

November 2017-January 2018	\$2.00
February 2018 to July 2018	\$4.00
August 2018 (stabilized)	\$7.46

BOARD VOTES TO TERMINATE AGREEMENT

Several years ago, the Curran-Gardner Townships Public Water District and the City of Springfield (CWLP) entered into an intergovernmental agreement to prevent CWLP from taking customers as their own from homes and businesses located in district boundaries after September 23, 2009. This agreement has not served our district well and so, on March 13, 2018, the board agreed to begin the process of terminating this agreement. We want our customers to know of this decision. We also want our customers presently served by CWLP to know that they will not be affected in any way by this action. Please call operations manager Wayne Nelson at 546-3981 if you have any questions regarding this action.

Monthly Board Meetings

Monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm. The public is welcome. If you cannot join us, the minutes are located on our website at www.currangardner.com. Audio files are maintained on the website.



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Wayne Nelson, Operations Manager
Cherril Graff, Business Manager

HOW TO DETECT LEAKS

Use your water meter to check for leaks

The best way to determine if you have a leak in your plumbing system, is by first checking your water meter. If you do not know where your meter is located, you can call Customer Service at 217/546-3981 to get your meter location.

1. Make sure **no** water is being used inside or outside of your house.
2. Locate your water meter and check the leak indicator to see if it is moving. Depending on the brand of your meter, the leak indicator could be a small triangular shaped dial or a small silver wheel that rotates when water is flowing through the meter. If the dial is moving, chances are, you have a leak.
3. Or, you can also take a meter reading and wait 1 or 2 hours and take another meter reading (make sure no water is used during this time). If the reading has changed, you have a leak.

After you have determined that you have a leak, the next step is to determine if the leak is inside or outside of your house.

1. Locate your home's main shut off valve and shut off the water at the valve. Typically, you will find the shut off valve in the basement or garage directly behind an outdoor faucet, or outside below an outdoor faucet.
2. Again, check the leak indicator for movement or use the meter reading method, making sure not to use any water during this period. If the leak indicator stops moving or there is no change in the meter readings, then you have a leak inside of the house. If the leak indicator continues to move or there is a change in the meter readings, then the leak is outside between the meter and the house.
3. If you are unable to locate the leak, you may need to call a plumber.

Leaking Faucets: Leaking faucets are generally a result of a worn rubber washer. The washer on a sink is usually located under the handle. These are relatively easy to replace, if you have the right tools. It does require shutting off the water under the sink or at the main shutoff valve and removing the handle. (*Note: faucet handles are not shutoff valves.*) Check your local home center or hardware store on how to repair faucet leaks.

- ***Leaking Toilets:*** Toilet leaks can waste hundreds of gallons and often are silent. Even a small leak can add up.
- The most common reason for a leaking toilet is one that has an improperly working or sealing flapper. The flapper is the rubber valve in the bottom of the tank that lifts when the toilet is flushed. If the flapper is worn or cracked, it allows water to continuously flow from the tank into the toilet bowl without flushing.
- To help determine if you have a leaking toilet, remove the tank lid and place a few drops of food coloring in back of the toilet tank. Wait about 30 minutes, without flushing, and then look in the toilet bowl to see if any color has come through. If the water is clear, water is not leaking. If you see food coloring in the bowl you have a leak and a lot of wasted water and money over time. In most cases, you will just need to replace the toilet flapper and/or filling mechanism.

Flush Handle Problems: If the handle needs to be jiggled to keep the toilet from running, the flush level bar and chain (or the handle itself) may be sticking. Adjust the nut that secures it in the toilet tank. If that does not work, the handle may have to be replaced.

Overflow Tube Leaks: Ideally the water level should be set so that is about even with the fill line on the back of the toilet tank (approximately 1/2" below the overflow tube). If the water is too high in the toilet tank and is spilling into the overflow tube, the water level can be adjusted by turning the adjustment screw or by very gently bending the float arm down so that the water shuts off at a level below the overflow tube.