

The Water Drop

Mount Werner Water
October 2011 Newsletter



2011 DISTRICT WATER IMPROVEMENTS

Apres Ski Way Water Main Looping This project was completed August 8th. This project eliminated two dead-end water mains in Apres Ski Way: one at the Apres Ski Way cul-de-sac; the other at 3312 Apres Ski Way. These connections will improve the fire flow availability and water supply reliability for homes in this area.

North Alpenglow Way Upsizing This project was completed September 14th. This project replaced and upsized the water main in Alpenglow Way from the new pump station at Val D'Isere north to the Apres Ski Way intersection. This will improve water supplies to the neighborhood and to the new pump station.

If you have questions, please call Mount Werner Water at 970-879-2424.

I had a higher utility bill than expected. What happened?

The most common causes of higher-than-normal usage are landscape irrigation system issues. This may include changes in the duration and frequency of your watering, leaking valves, broken sprinkler heads, or broken pipes. If you suspect a leak, look around your home or business for telltale signs; mushy soil or grass; moss growing around valves, sidewalks or near the sprinkler head. You can also check your water meter to help confirm a leak. If you have a landscape maintenance company, consult with them to see if they have noticed any problems. Other common causes of high usage are leaky toilets, constantly running toilets (floats malfunctioning), valves or bypasses left open.

Attention, commercial customers and residential property managers. We are discovering wired seals on bypass valves cut and the meter bypass valve activated. If this bypass valve is tampered with, a fine of \$250 will be levied in addition any labor and material costs to replace the wired seal on the bypass valve.

From Mount Werner Water District's Rules & Regulations:

4.1 UNAUTHORIZED TAMPERING WITH SYSTEMS

4.1.1 No unauthorized person shall uncover, use, alter, or disturb any facilities (appurtenances owned by the District) without first obtaining written authorization from the District. Unauthorized use of or tampering with the District's facilities include, but are not limited to, an unauthorized turn-on or turn-off of water or sewer service, burying valve boxes, and modifying any water meter, and discharging prohibited sewage even though the same may be performed on a privately owned and maintained service line.

NEW RATES FOR 2012

See reverse side for details

PROTECT YOUR PIPES & WATER METER

Winter weather is on its way. Take precautions to prevent your pipes and water meter from freezing:

- ◆ Turn-off water to outside spigots and drain water from valve to spigot.
- ◆ Insulate around or apply heat tape to vulnerable pipes and meters so they are adequately protected from the cold.
- ◆ Leave cabinets under a sink or other closed area that contains plumbing, open to allow for warm air circulation around pipes.
- ◆ Do not leave your garage door open during cold weather.
- ◆ In the event that a pipe or meter does burst, turn the water off at the inside shut-off valve and contact a licensed plumber immediately.

How can I pay my bill?

You can instantly pay your bill from the comfort of your home with the click of a button, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We have partnered with **Xpress Bill Pay** service. Go to Mount Werner Water's website at: www.mwwater.com and click on the **Xpress Bill Pay** icon located on the right hand side of the home page. In addition to paying your bill, you can review your account information including payment history, water usage, previous bills and more!

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS, LANDSCAPERS AND IRRIGATORS!

PLEASE remove the irrigation meter before blowing compressed air thru the irrigation system. Compressed air will damage the meter. Replacement is the owners responsibility.



NEW RATES FOR 2012

The Mount Werner Water and Sanitation District will be raising water rates and wastewater treatment rates effective January 1, 2012. You will see these new water and wastewater treatment rates in your April, 2012 bill for the First Quarter of 2012.

Water Rate Increase

On July 10th & 17th, the District posted public notice in the Pilot newspaper of a meeting of the Board of Directors at 8:00 o'clock A.M. on July 21, 2011, at the Mount Werner Water Filtration Plant, 3310 Clear Water Trail, Steamboat Springs, CO for the purpose of considering this water rate increase. Notice of the meeting was also posted in the officially designated notice board at the Office of the County Clerk as well as at Safeway, City Market, the front door of District offices, and on the District website.

At the July 21st meeting, the Board voted to increase the District water volume charges effective January 1, 2012, following the recommendations of the District's rate consultant. This rate increase is necessary to maintain current service levels. The current water rates went into effect in January, 2007. The District's water rates will remain among the lowest in Colorado.

Residential water volume charges		2012	Current
Tier 1	0 to 75 m3 per quarter per unit	\$0.28 per m3	\$0.23 per m3
Tier 2	76 to 420 m3 per quarter per unit	\$0.45 per m3	\$0.40 per m3
Tier 3	421 + m3 per quarter per unit	\$0.90 per m3	\$0.81 per m3
Residential irrigation/amenity meters		\$0.45 per m3	\$0.40 per m3
Commercial water volume charges		\$0.42 per m3	\$0.32 per m3
Commercial irrigation/amenity meters		\$0.45 per m3	\$0.40 per m3

1 m3 = 264.17 gallons

Water rate charges effective January 1, 2012

The water base charge will remain at \$21.84 per quarter for all customers.

The average household in the District will see an increase of about \$16.00 per year, depending on summer irrigation usage.

Residential volume charges will increase \$2.27 per quarter for a home using 45 cubic meters per quarter (4,000 gallons per month) and \$4.74 per quarter for a home using 80 cubic meters per quarter (7,000 gallons per month). For a restaurant using 397 cubic meters per quarter (35,000 gallons per month), the quarterly water bill would increase \$39.75 from \$149.03 to \$188.78.

Wastewater Treatment Increase

In September, 2010, the Steamboat City Council voted to raise wastewater treatment rates over a three year period beginning January 1, 2011 for all City customers and wholesale customers including the Mount Werner Water and Sanitation District.

The District adopted this new schedule of wastewater treatment rates at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors on October 28, 2010. The rate for residential customers will increase 2% in 2012 and another 2% in 2013. The rate for commercial customers will rise 20% in 2012 and another 15% in 2013. The 2013 rate will bring the Mount Werner commercial wastewater treatment rate in line with that for City commercial customers.

Wastewater Treatment rate charges effective January 1, 2012

Residential \$33.15 per residential unit per quarter

Commercial \$1.10 per m3 (Q1, Q4 based on actual water use; Q2, Q3 based on avg of Q1, Q4)

Wastewater Collection

Wastewater collection charges will remain the same in 2012. Residential \$8.82 per residential unit per quarter.

Commercial \$0.20 per m3 (Q1, Q4 based on actual water use; Q2, Q3 based on average of Q1, Q4).

Examples:

Residential wastewater treatment and collection will rise only 63 cents from \$41.34 to \$41.97 per quarter.

For a commercial restaurant using 397 cubic meters per quarter (35,000 gallons per month), the wastewater collection and treatment charges will increase \$71.92 per quarter from \$444.37 per quarter to \$516.29 per quarter.