

Mount Werner Water District Modifies Rate Structure

Tiers Will Benefit Customers Engaged in Water Conservation

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, Colo. (Sept. 22, 2006) – The Mount Werner Water District announced today that its Board of Directors has voted to modify the District’s water rate structure beginning Jan. 1, 2007.

The new structure features tiered rates based on usage, a blueprint for conservation already adopted by the City of Steamboat Springs. The new structure will reduce many residential customers’ water bills and begin to balance the costs associated with serving different customer classes. The modification in the water rate structure is designed to be revenue neutral for the District.

The District has traditionally used a uniform-rate structure, charging all its customers \$30 per quarter plus 25 cents per cubic meter of water on all water used after the first 30 cubic meters. As of Jan. 1, 2007, the base rate will decrease to \$21.84 per quarter and residential customers will pay 23 cents for the first 95 cubic meters. Quarterly indoor water usage by most residential customers falls within that cutoff.

The District has added two more tiers for residential customers. All water consumed after the first 95 cubic meters and up to 420 cubic meters will cost residential customers 40 cents per cubic meter. Some residential customers who irrigate their lawns heavily may slip into this second tier. After 420 cubic meters, the rate increases to 81 cents, and revenues from this tier will help to fund conservation programs. There are 264.2 gallons of water in a cubic meter.

“In this age of conservation awareness, most water districts across the nation use a tiered rate structure, and we decided it was time to make the change,” said Jon Halverson, District president and chairman of the board. “This structure will motivate customers to conserve water in an effort to remain in the lowest tier.”

Commercial customers will pay a uniform rate of 32 cents per cubic meter of water beginning Jan. 1, 2007, up from 25 cents.

The District launched its water conservation campaign in early July, targeting a 10 percent reduction in water usage during the warmest periods of the summer, when high usage typically puts a strain on water treatment capacity.

“The community has responded enthusiastically to our pleas for water conservation during the summer months,” said Jay Gallagher, District manager, “and tiered rates convey the message that we as a community value our water resources year-round.”

Anyone with questions about water conservation is encouraged to call 970-879-2424. Also, people can visit www.mwwater.com/conservation.html for a complete list of tips.