



Mount Werner Water District to Consider Water Rate Increase

Water bill for the average single-family homeowner would increase \$16.00 per year

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, Colo. (July 7, 2011) – The Mt. Werner Water and Sanitation District has announced that the Board of Directors will consider increasing the District's water volume charges at its next regular meeting. The proposed rates would go into effect Jan. 1, 2012. Current water rates went into effect in January, 2007.

The additional funds generated will primarily cover inflationary increases in operating costs since 2006 and support the on-going replacement of older infrastructure.

Under the proposed increase, the water bill for the average single-family homeowner in the District would increase about \$16.00 per year, depending on summer irrigation usage. Residential volume charges would 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 79 cubic meters per quarter (7,000 gallons per month). The current base charge of \$21.84 per quarter for residential customers would not change.

The District has maintained three ascending tiers in its rate structure, but would lower the threshold of the second tier from 95 cubic meters to 75 cubic meters per quarter. This lower threshold represents the divide between average indoor use and discretionary outdoor use. It is the latter that requires the District to maintain substantial additional capacity to meet peak-day water demand during the summer.

Residential customers would pay 28 cents per cubic meter – up from 23 cents – for the first 75 cubic meters in a quarter. All water consumed after the first 75 cubic meters and up to 420 cubic meters would cost residential customers 45 cents per cubic meter. According to the proposed structure, after 420 cubic meters, the rate increases to 90 cents, and revenues from this tier will help to fund the District's conservation programs. Irrigation and amenity facility meters will be billed at 45 cents per cubic meter. There are 264.17 gallons in a cubic meter.

“In this age of conservation awareness, water districts are focusing on discretionary usage,” said Kathy Connell, District president and chairman of the board. “Tiered rates reward conservative customers and inspire everyone to consider the value of our water resources.”

Commercial customers would pay a uniform rate of 42 cents per cubic meter of water beginning Jan. 1, 2012, up from 32 cents. The current base charge of \$21.84 per quarter for commercial customers will not change. For a restaurant using 397 cubic meters per quarter (35,000 gallons per month), the water bill would increase \$13.25 per month or \$39.75 per quarter.

The City and the District have developed a Water Conservation Plan for Steamboat Springs, targeting discretionary water usage during the warmest periods of the summer, when peak-usage places a heavy demand on water treatment capacity.

“We are asking individuals to make wise water-use decisions every day,” said Jay Gallagher, District General Manager, “The tiered structure motivates customers to conserve water in an effort to remain in the lowest tier.”

The board meeting to discuss the new rate structure begins at 8 a.m. July 21st at the Fish Creek Filtration Plant, and it is open to the public. Anyone with questions about water conservation or the new rate structure is encouraged to call 970-879-2424. Also, customers can visit www.mwwater.com to obtain a list of water conservation tips, read the Water Conservation Plan, and review the proposed rate structure.

About Mount Werner Water & Sanitation District

The Mount Werner Water & Sanitation District treats and distributes water for the mountain resort area of Steamboat Springs and, under agreement with the City of Steamboat Springs, provides water to the City Water District for distribution to its customers. Under agreement with the City, the District also provides the infrastructure for the collection of wastewater from the resort area which is routed to the City’s interceptor line that leads to the City’s wastewater treatment plant west of Steamboat Springs. The Mount Werner Water District, formed in 1965, is a Special District pursuant to State Statute and is a political subdivision of the State of Colorado. An elected five-member board of directors governs the District.

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