

Pinery Pipeline

March/April 2010

Pinery Water & Wastewater District – 303.841.2797

www.pinerywater.com

DISTRICT REACHES A SAFETY MILESTONE



On January 25, 2010, the staff at the District accomplished an incredible milestone that is seldom accomplished in any industry – 3500 straight days of not incurring a lost time, work related injury. This equates to over 9-1/2 years of consciously recognizing hazardous situations and remedying them, as well as performing day to day tasks in a consistently safe manner. The Directors of the District are extremely proud of this accomplishment, especially when they consider the working environment the staff faces every day. This includes working with chemicals, driving vehicles and heavy equipment, working in confined spaces, as well as the many unpredictable hazards they are confronted with each day. District Manager Charlie Krogh frequently reminds the staff that working safe on any one day (like day 3500) is no more important

Safety Chairmen
Dave Chatagnier &
Erik Ekbohm present a
Certificate of
Appreciation to
Director Bob
Chapman



than any other day. The goal every day is to work safe and return home to our families in good health. It's this attitude and continued training effort that has helped the staff reach this milestone.

PREPARING FOR THE DISTRICTS FUTURE

In 2005, the District united with Cottonwood Water & Sanitation District, Arapahoe County Water & Wastewater Authority, and Inverness Water & Sanitation District to create the Cherry Creek Project Water Authority (“CCPWA”). The CCPWA purchased out of bankruptcy the assets previously owned by Western Water Company. These assets included a portfolio of alluvial and Denver basin water rights, wells, pipelines, and land. In addition, the CCPWA has purchased additional senior alluvial water rights along Cherry Creek that will strengthen the delivery expectations of the project.

In the past four years, the Authority Directors have been actively working toward developing the water rights and creating master and infrastructure plans in preparation for incorporating the water into the individual Authority members’ systems. These plan documents provide direction for the proposed infrastructure including future wells, pipelines to transport water and defines storage needs for drought years – all this in the spirit of cooperation of the Authority members which truly maximizes the water that is available.

The Pinery Water and Wastewater District is a 20% owner in the CCPWA with District Manager Charlie Krogh serving as an Authority Director. He states, “This project, along with other regional efforts, will be an important part of our future water supply.”



Fascinating Facts About Water... Did you know?

Every time you turn on the tap in your home, you receive one of world's most precious commodities – fresh, clean drinking water. Essential for all life, water is an amazing substance that can appear as a liquid, a solid, or a gas. Here are some other interesting facts about water:

- When we use water, we generally add contaminants to it, like soap, food products, and chemicals, which must be removed before the water is used again.
- Be careful of what you pour down your drain. It is the gateway to your wastewater disposal system and eventually to our water supply.
- Close to three-quarters of Earth's surface is covered with water, but less than 1 percent is suitable and available for drinking using conventional water treatment.
- In just 16 hours, US water utilities produce as much potable water as the oil industry produces in oil in a year. In 24 hours, as much water tonnage is produced as the steel industry produces in steel in an entire year.
- Ice cubes float because ice is less dense than water. Water freezes in a lattice-like formation, which creates buoyancy and allows ice to float.
- Your water district is responsible for underground pipes from the street up to your water meter, but if your pipes leak within the boundary of your property after the meter, it may be your responsibility to make repairs.
- Fire hydrants are sometimes called fire plugs because long ago when water was needed to fight fires, the hollowed-out logs used to distribute water were located and drilled into to access the water. When a fire was put out, a wooden plug was used to close the hole in the tapped log and was marked for future use.
- A snow crystal contains approximately 1 quintillion (1,000,000,000,000,000) molecules of water.

~Provided by American Water Works Association

FAQ: Each time my water bill arrives, my usage shows exactly an even 19,000 or 26,000 gallons each month, how is that possible? Are you estimating? Rounding?

The District never rounds and seldom estimates our customers' water usage. We actually charge to the 1000th gallon used each billing cycle. So, whether you've used 19,001 or 19,999 gallons, you will be billed for 19,000 gallons and the remainder rolls into the next billing period. We hope this provides some clarification, but feel free to call our customer service representatives for additional questions.

WATER SYSTEM FLUSHING

The District maintains over 100 miles of water mains and more than 700 fire hydrants! Over the winter, mineral deposits that occur naturally in the water build up inside the water main due to lower water usage. Every spring, the District clears the water mains that serve your home by opening fire hydrants. The amount of water delivered from the hydrant is able to pick up the deposits and remove them from the water supply. By flushing annually, our high water quality is maintained and issues relating to taste, odor and color are greatly reduced. At the same time, fire hydrants are checked for operation and visibility to insure that if there is a fire, they are operational and easy to find.



Just a reminder to take a little time this spring and check out your sprinkler system. We suggest starting with an inspection for leaks throughout the system. Next, position sprinkler heads so that you are watering your landscaping, not the sidewalk! And, adjust the timing device appropriately.

If you're considering a new landscaping plan or cleaning up the old landscaping, don't forget to keep the area around fire hydrants and meter pits free of shrubs, trees and fences. This clearance will help the emergency responders locate a hydrant in case of a fire emergency and assist District in reading your meter.