



Water Talk



June 2009
Volume 1 Issue 1

Winterport Water District - 34 Sampson Street - Winterport, Maine 04496
www.winterportmaine.org wwd@winterportmaine.org (207)223-5028

Stimulus To Help Fund Sewer System Repairs

By Steven Long, Chairman Board of Trustees

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Stimulus To Help Fund Sewer System Repairs
- 1 Wellhead Protection Grant
- 2 Water District Employee Recognized
- 3 Keeping Your Costs Down
- 3 Future Stewards of Our Environment
- 4 A Federal Offense
- 4 A Note From Your Trustees
- 4 New Meeting Dates and Hours of Operations

The Winterport Water District has recently been awarded stimulus funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to be used for sewer system rehabilitation.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development has awarded the District a \$250,000 loan and a \$460,000 grant for a total of \$710,000. The funding will be used for sewer system infrastructure rehabilitation of approximately 6,100 feet of deteriorated sewer lines. The rehabilitation project will help the wastewater treatment plant prevent overflows of partially treated wastewater into the Penobscot River.

The District was previously awarded a grant of \$1,185,379 and \$679,621 as a zero interest loan from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. This funding was also received under the ARRA of 2009.

Please see *Sewer System Funding* on page 2

District Receives Grant for Wellhead Protection

By Steven M. Lane, Superintendent

The Winterport Water District has been taking advantage of a small grant program funded by the Maine Drinking Water Program the past several years. Grants in the amount of \$5,000 are given on an annual basis to applicants for the purpose of increasing protection of the wellhead and source water area. The District participated in the grant program and has been awarded a 2009 Wellhead Protection Grant in the amount of \$5,000. The grant will be used to help fence in the area around the District's wellhead and install motion sensor lighting.

"Security grant to help protect Winterport's public water supply."

Please see *Wellhead Protection* on page 3

Water District Employee Recognized for Long Term Environmental Service

By Steven M. Lane, Superintendent

“Scott leaves at the end of a 33 year commitment to protecting Maine’s environment”.



Longtime District employee Scott Clukey was recently recognized by the Maine Wastewater Control Association for his service in protecting Maine’s precious water environment. During the Maine Wastewater Control Association’s annual spring conference, at Verrillos Banquet Hall in Portland, Scott was presented a plaque in recognition of his 33 years in the environmental industry. MWWCA President Tom Wiley presented the award to Scott along with some items he is sure to enjoy on the golf course.

Scott and wife Cheryl will be leaving Maine at the end of June to be closer to their grandchildren in Pennsylvania.

The District wishes Scott well in his future endeavors!

Sewer System Funding from page 1

The additional funding from the USDA will provide for a lower loan payment for the District and its customers. With the initial funding from the Maine DEP CWSRF fund, the annual loan repayment would have been approximately \$36,000. The new funding, coupled with the recently awarded USDA funding will lower the District’s annual debt service payment for the EPA, mandated project by \$24,000 to \$12,000 annually.

It’s anticipated that the project will go out to bid in late July, with construction to begin in August or September. The rehabilitation process will conclude in late fall and resume in the spring of 2010. Completion of the system repairs is expected by early summer of 2010.

Customers with any questions should contact the Districts office at 223-5028.



Water – our greatest resource.

Keeping Your Costs Down – Make Your Water Meter Accessible

By Margaret Crossman, Assistant Treasurer

While we strive to keep your utility costs down you can help in the process as well. It begins with your water meter and its outside recorder.

Our meter reader travels the water distribution system quarterly at the end of March, June, September, and December for the purpose of collecting readings from the water meters in your home.

A touch pad, located on the outside of your house or garage, is connected to your water meter and allows our meter reader to read it without entering your house. Without this touchpad or recorder, our meter reader would have to go inside each house and read the water meter. Also, if the touch pad is covered up with firewood, propane tanks, or other bulky items where we cannot reach it, we would have to enter your home to read the meter. In the event that you are not home, we would have to contact you for an appointment to get inside to do this. You may have to take time off from work to meet us at your home and let us in.

This would be a very time consuming process and would take significantly longer to read all the water meters. It would slow down the process by requiring more time and labor, thus hindering our ability to get the utility bills sent out in a timely manner.

You can help keep your utility costs down by keeping your water meter clear and accessible at all times!

Future Stewards of Our Environment

By Scott Clukey, Assistant Operator

Selecting a science project is not always an easy task for most young students. Shelby, a Millinocket Middle School student, decided she would intern at learning the wastewater treatment process at the Winterport Water District. Her 6th grade science project theme would be “Biological Oxygen Demand before and after Wastewater Treatment”. Shelby made several trips to the wastewater treatment plant during her weekends and with input from the staff performed one of the most comprehensive tests in determining the effectiveness of a wastewater treatment plant: the Biological Oxygen Demand analysis. During the course of the project, she reached out to Tim Loftus, who has been the Chief Chemist and Industrial Pretreatment Coordinator at the Webster-Dudley Wastewater Treatment Facility in Massachusetts since 1988. Tim provided her with some beneficial insight to the Biological Oxygen Demand test and offered her suggestions when conducting an independent Glucose - Glutamic Acid check for accuracy.

Her efforts proved fruitful after the judging process which included an oral interview and presentation. Shelby's diligence on her science project was rewarded when she received the 2nd place award for her project.

“Keeping your water meter recorder clear and easy to access allows for less time spent on reading meters.”



Outside Meter Recorder

“Middle school student learns about wastewater treatment process during school science project.”



Tampering or Vandalizing a Water Utility – A Federal Offense

By Steven M. Lane, Superintendent

Under the statutes of the U.S. Code of Collection, Title 42, Chapter 6A, any person who attempts to tamper, or makes a threat to tamper, with a public drinking water system may be imprisoned for not more than 10 years, or fined in accordance with title 18, or both.

The term “tamper” means to otherwise interfere with the operation of a public water system with the intention of harming persons.

Recent vandalism of the District’s water tower at Abbott Park has included damage to the security fence and painting of graffiti on the outside tank structure. These nuisance acts cost our ratepayers unnecessary expenses in repairs as well as concern for drinking water safety. Once

discovered, an investigation process must be conducted to insure that no attempts have been made on the drinking water itself.

Applying paint onto the already coated steel of the standpipe may seem harmless. Depending on the ingredients of the paint being applied it may have the potential to react with the existing paint on the structure and cause it to peel, thereby exposing the steel structure to rusting.

We encourage our customers to contact the District as well as the local authorities when they witness or discover such acts. Calls can be made to the Waldo County Sheriff’s Dept at 338-2040.

A Note from your Board of Trustees

The Winterport Water District’s Board of Trustees is pleased to present the 2009 edition of Water Talk, our new newsletter. We hope our customers will use this newsletter and our web site (www.winterportmaine.org) to learn more about our operations. We continue to be appreciative of the support of our customers and the Winterport Town Council, as well as of the daily efforts of the District’s 3 employees. The Board meets the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Office at 20 School Street. The public is welcome.

Steven Long, Chairman | Doulas Ronco, Treasurer | Barbara Economy, Clerk | Brian Richardson | Donna Gilbert



District announces new Meeting Dates and Hours of Operation

The WWD hours of operation have changed to 7:00 am to 3:30 pm beginning June 1st. These new hours also include our office schedule. The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees is now the second Monday of each month. These new changes will help increase the overall efficiency of our operations as well as provide cost saving measures for our customers.

“Winterport Water District – Water without the Bottle”