

Lake Chelan Reclamation District News



Special points of interest:

- Northshore Sewer Project to Re-Bid
- Irrigation Transformer Replacement Project
- Mill Bay Casino Pays Hookup Fees
- Directors Libbey and Tackitt Re-Elected

Sewer Rates Increase in 2004 Irrigation & Domestic Rates Remain the Same

Sewer rates will increase by one dollar per month for the average home in 2004. The rate increase is needed as the District prepares to replace the main sewer interceptor line between Manson and Chelan in 2004-2005. The proposed \$7.2 million dollar replacement project will prepare the sewer infrastructure to accommodate growth for the next 20 years and replace a system that is beginning to reach the end of it's useful life. (See related article in this issue). In 2003, LCRD also began paying for our share of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade that was completed by the City of Chelan last year.

Irrigation rates will remain at their present level for the eighth year in a row. Domestic base rates will remain at their current level for the sixth year in a row. Excess rates for domestic users were lowered in the year 2000 and will remain at the lowered level for the year 2004.

Irrigation

Base Rate	\$ 92.00 per acre	\$25.00 per parcel
Indian Lands	\$ 69.00 per acre	\$18.75 per parcel
Laycock Contracts	\$167.27 per acre	\$25.00 per parcel
Laycock Lands	\$ 2.50 per acre	

Domestic

Base Rate per ERU* (first 700 cubic feet)	\$26.00 per month
Excess Water (over 700 cubic feet)	\$ 3.71 per 100 cf

Sewer

Base Rate per ERU*	\$37.00 per month
--------------------	-------------------

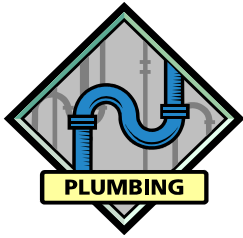
*ERU stands for Equivalent Residential Unit

Summer Homes; Protect Your Pipes

Some winters we have had a number of unoccupied homes experience frozen pipes during the periods of extreme cold weather. Water lines are much more susceptible to freeze damage when there is no water use. If your house will be mostly unoccupied but you believe you will need water in the winter, we recommend that you have someone check your plumbing and run some water if necessary during extremely cold periods. If you will not need water during the winter months, we recommend that you turn the wa-

ter off at your shut-off valve and completely drain the house plumbing. We would like to encourage you to install your own shut-off valve outside of the meter box if you do not already have one. Please do not attempt to shut off your service at the meter box yourself. The valves in the meter boxes are the property of the District, and if you break them it may cause us to shut down service to your whole neighborhood.

Don't Let Cold Weather Catch You Unprepared!



Don't be susceptible to freeze damage this winter. Protect your plumbing.

What if it's too late? What if you wake up one morning to find the pipes are frozen anyway?

Every winter, many homeowners face the expense and inconvenience of frozen water pipes. However, you can cross that off your list of winter worries by taking a few simple precautions.

1. Disconnect and drain outdoor hoses. Detaching the hose allows water to drain from the pipe. Otherwise, a single hard, overnight freeze can burst either the faucet or the pipe it's connected to.
2. Insulate pipes or faucets in unheated areas. If you have pipelines in an unheated garage or cold crawl space under the house, wrap the water pipes before temperatures plummet. Hardware or building supply stores will have good pipe wrapping materials available.
3. Seal off access doors, air vents and cracks. Repair broken basement windows. Winter winds whistling through overlooked openings can quickly freeze exposed water pipes. Don't plug air vents that your furnace or water heater may need for good combustion.
4. Find the master shutoff. It may be near the water heater or the washing machine. More likely, it's where the water line comes into your house from the street. If a pipe bursts anywhere in the house, kitchen, bath, basement or crawl space, this valve turns it off. So find it now and paint it a bright color or hang a tag on it. Be sure everyone in the family knows where it is and what it does.
5. Run water. Under extremely cold conditions, you might consider running a small amount of water to prevent pipes from freezing. A stream of water the size of a pencil lead is all you need during the cold night-time hours when the household is asleep.

What if it's too late? What if you wake up one day to find the pipes are frozen anyway? During an extended cold spell, it could happen despite precautions.

Do you have a plumber's telephone number handy? Write it down now before you need it in an emergency.

If you think you know where the freeze-up occurred and want to try thawing it yourself, do not under any circumstances use a torch with an open flame! The whole house could catch fire. Also, overheating a single spot can burst the pipe. Heating a soldered joint could allow it to leak or come completely apart.

The easiest tool is probably a hair dryer with a low heat setting. Wave the warm air back and forth along the pipe, not on just one spot. If you don't have a hair dryer, you can wrap the frozen section with rags or towels and pour hot water over them. It's messy, but it works.

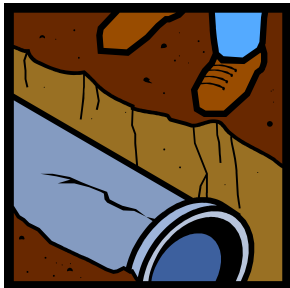
Be careful because the pipe may already be broken. It's not leaking because the water is frozen. But when you thaw it out, water could come gushing out. Be ready to run for the master shutoff valve if necessary.

The main thing is to take precautions before winter sets in.



Cold weather is on it's way! Are you ready?

Northshore Sewer Interceptor Replacement Project to Re-bid



Bids were opened on the Northshore Sewer Interceptor Replacement Project on May 20, 2003 to replace the pipelines and sewer lift stations between Manson and Chelan. The combined bids were nearly \$2.6 million dollars over the construction budget of \$5.8 million dollars. A majority of the overruns were due to limited space in the SR 150 right-of-way when combined with the stringent requirements placed upon the project by the Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT).

It is our goal and priority to continue to

modify the work as necessary to meet the primary objectives of serving the 20-year growth projection, but to do so within our original estimates.

We are re-bidding the project this fall and will delay the start of construction until the spring of 2004. Our goal is still to have everything replaced and operational by the early summer of 2005. The sewer line is currently at capacity in the summer months and is approaching the end of its useful life from a reliability standpoint as well. We will keep you informed as we progress through this effort.

Irrigation Transformers Replacement Project

The LCRD irrigation system was installed in the early 1970's. The cost of the irrigation system included electrical transformers that the District actually owns and operates in cooperation with Chelan County PUD. These transformers were manufactured with an oil that contained the chemical PCB. PCB was commonly used from the 1940's until about 20 years ago when they determined it was an environmentally hazardous chemical. It is now in the best interest of the District to replace these transformers before any failures occur that could result in a contaminated oil spill. This \$360,000 project is being funded directly by irrigation rate pay-

ers over the next three years. We will have replaced six of ten transformers by next spring and will replace the final four transformers in the winter of 2004-2005. We want to thank the Chelan County PUD for their excellent help and cooperation in designing and constructing this project. We have relied on their expertise and status in the industry to come up with solutions that will serve LCRD customers reliably and affordably in the long-term. This project will help safe guard our valley from expensive environmental clean-ups that would occur if deferred maintenance were prescribed by your Board of Directors.



Wapato Point

Mill Bay Casino Hookup Fees Paid

After years of negotiations, the Mill Bay Casino has paid in full the outstanding hookup fees owed for water and sewer charges for their facility. The District received checks totaling over \$610,000 for water and sewer impact fees. Receipt of the checks is the first of several steps needed to get both of the Indian Allotment lands to pay their fair share of growth impacts in the

Manson area. Both MA-8 and Wapato Point have been subsidized by District users when recent capital improvements have been made. More work is needed to insure that they pay for their impact on our drinking water and sewage collection infrastructure for the projects currently underway and those needed for the future.



Lake

Chelan Reclamation

BULK RATE
MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MANSON, WA
PERMIT NO. 12

P.O. Box 'J' • 80 Wapato Way
Manson, Washington 98831

Phone: 509-687-3548
Fax: 509-687-9884
Email: staff@lcrd.org
www.lcrd.org

New Billing / Water Use Statements Coming Soon



Early next year the Lake Chelan Reclamation District will be switching software programs to a new billing and water use accounting program. With the switch will be revised billing statements and water use statements for our customers. The goal is to present you with billing and water use information in a new and improved format. We will be going away from our postcard formats and will instead be using a letter format. Water use on the irrigation system will likely be reported in total acre-feet rather than acre-inches per acre.

We have a significant number of names, addresses, accounts and turnout information to switch to the new system. We ask that you are patient with the transition and be sure to let us know if we have gotten a name or account mixed up in any way. Our goal is to have it 100% correct the first time, but recognize that this will be a daunting challenge. As always, if you have any questions about how to read your bills or statements, please stop by and we will be happy to help. In the long run, this transition will help us serve you better. We hope you like the results!

Directors Re-Elected, No Election Needed

Rocky Libbey and Coy Tackitt filed unopposed for two open director positions on the Lake Chelan Reclamation District Board of Directors. Under irrigation district law, unopposed candidates are automatically elected to the positions without the need for an election. Rocky and Coy will begin their second three-year term in January of 2004.

