

AGASSIZ WATER USERS DISTRICT 2022 ANNUAL MEETING NEWSLETTER

All members are invited to attend our annual meeting on Wednesday, April 20, 2022, in the Manvel Community Center at 7:00pm. If you are unable to attend it is important that you return the enclosed proxy by mail before the date of the meeting. **Special prizes will be drawn from the proxies that are returned.**

The Agassiz Water Staff and board of directors have been working carefully to update the district's by-laws. We will be voting on the updated by-laws at the 2022 annual meeting and ask that you attend in person or fill out the enclosed proxy vote to have the Agassiz Board of Directors vote on your behalf.

The current By-Laws along with the revised By-Laws will be available on the website to review. If you wish to have a hard copy, please call or stop in at our office in Gilby and we will provide you with copies of each either in person or by mail.

- **New Website:** Please log onto our new website and sign up for alerts. We will use this for any district emergencies. You can also pay with credit card and submit your meter reading through the website. **Website: awud.net**
- **New Email Address:** office@awud.net
- **E-Statements:** We offer E-Statements! Please call the office to get signed up. 701.869.2690
- **ACH Payments:** ACH Payments are available with no fee. Call the office to inquire.
- **Credit Card Payments:** Credit/Debit card payments are available through the website with a fee of 3.95% or \$2.00 minimum.

Membership Fees: The membership fee for a standard residential service is \$1,000.00. Larger services will be priced accordingly.

Consumer Confidence Report: The 2021 Consumer Confidence Report will be available on our Web Site (www.awud.net). We ask that you take the time to look over this report. It details the chemical content and other pertinent information concerning your drinking Water. If you are unable to visit our web site, you can get a copy at our office, or one can be mailed to you upon request.

Billing Due Date: Payments are due the 10th of each month. All water bills shall be delinquent 30 days after the 10th day of the month. All bills not paid within 30 days of the 10th are subject to a ten percent (10%) penalty on the past due amount. When the 10th of the month falls on a weekend or holiday, payment must be received in the office by no later than 9:00 AM on the first working day after the 10th.

Meter Estimation Fee: It is the member's responsibility to read the meter and write the meter reading on the return stub of the billing card and return it with the payment. If no reading is submitted to the water office, a **\$25.00** meter estimation fee shall be charged to the member's account.

Delinquent Accounts: Any account over thirty (30) days past due will be subject to disconnection. A 75.00 disconnection fee will be applied to all accounts disconnected.

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Curb Stop Location: Your curb stop is a shut off valve located outside your home near the surface of the ground and is used to shut the water off in case the valve inside your home fails. Each customer should know where their curb stop is, and have it marked. You are responsible if the curb stop is hit or damaged. It is very important that you do not build anything over your curb stop like sidewalks, other buildings, etc. If you do not know the location of your curb stop the district will help locate it for you at no charge.

Water Leaks

A special thanks to members reporting water leaks and outages. Please continue to report these incidents as well as water standing or running water in unusual areas.

Conserving water is important to us all. Be sure to water your lawns and gardens late in the day or evenings to minimize evaporation. If you think you may be using too much water, please check the following items before giving us a call.

1. **Toilets are the Number 1** cause of excess water usage. Toilets can be using excess water without making any noticeable noises. Some tips for detecting a leak are excess sweating on the tank, check the float so that water is not running into the overflow and if you suspect a leak put food coloring in tank at night to see if it has leaked into the bowl by morning.
2. **Water Softeners** can start to recycle more often than needed.
3. **Water lines** going from your home to out buildings can develop leaks. Make sure you have a shut off valve on these lines so that you can check it to see if you have a leak.
4. **Water Meter** – The easiest way to check to see if you have a leak is to look at the meter when nothing is running, if the meter is moving you are losing water somewhere.

Safety with Chemicals

THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY NO MIXING OF CHEMICALS AT THE RESERVOIR SITES WHILE FILLING YOUR TRUCK

We cannot emphasize too strongly the possible damage that exists when mixing farm chemicals with Agassiz Water. Anytime a garden hose is used to mix chemicals; you must have a backflow preventer on the yard hydrant or hose bib that the garden hose is connected to. This is for the safety of everyone on the water system. Even chemicals cans contaminate the soil, so please use extreme care, and dispose of these cans in the legally prescribed manner. **DO NOT LEAVE THEM NEAR A RESERVOIR SITE.**

We would like to remind everyone that safety with chemicals is not just a concern of farmers. Many of the products you use to fertilize your lawn or garden, to control weeds, and to eliminate pests contain the same chemicals that farmers use, even though they come in small containers. So please read the label, use rubber gloves and other safety precautions when working around them. Above all please store them safety out of reach of children.

Agassiz Water Users District wants to reassure our members that your water supply is safe and secure. We would also like our members to know that we will be checking meters and curbs top this summer.

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Hello Members,

2021 was a challenging yet overall positive year for Agassiz Water Users District (AWUD). As many are aware, we had faced one of the driest summers in recent memory. Although this provided a record year in water sales, the dry summer tested the system in many ways and pushed some of our facilities to their limits on many occasions, fortunately we were able to keep everyone with water and did not have to impose water use restrictions.

Along with the usual difficulties that a water system of our size faces, the water system was not shielded from the inflation, and supply chain issues that many of you have experienced as well. PVC pipe prices are at an all-time high and much of our electronics are on backorder. With the increased prices, much of our day-to-day inventory is taking several weeks to receive in stock. Thankfully with the help of our vendors, and a healthy inventory on hand we have been able to get what we need and make sure the system is operating smoothly.

A few of the highpoints of our year included expanding our system to 14 new users with the help of a Federal Grant from the department of health. AWUD was able to connect these homes to our treated water supply that were previously receiving untreated water from a residential well or hauling water for their own domestic use.

In the winter of 2021, we were also able to receive grant money from the State Water Commission as well to help make some much needed upgrades to our reservoirs that would complete the interconnect between ECRWD and AWUD, allowing us to effectively serve every member with soft water from a reverse osmosis plant located near Northwood.

Another bright spot of the year has been working with a local plumbing contractor Thermal Air Inc. to install remote read residential water meters. This project is a major system upgrade that will take multiple years to complete, and we are excited it is under way. By installing these meters AWUD is able to update some of our aging water meters, while also providing a benefit to the members by eliminating the need to physically provide a water meter reading for billing purposes.

Overall, it was another good year for AWUD. With the incredible work from our staff and Board of Directors, AWUD was able to increase our water sales, reduce water loss, and maintain a stable financial position to help ensure proper growth and stability for the water system and the members it serves.

John Eaton
Manager
Agassiz Water Users District

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