

AGASSIZ WATER USERS DISTRICT 2023 ANNUAL MEETING NEWSLETTER

All members are invited to attend our annual meeting on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, in the Manvel Community Center at 7:00 pm. 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 2023 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 are 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.

- **Website Alert:** Please log onto our new website and sign up for alerts. We will use this for any district emergencies or water disruptions. **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 2022 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.

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Hello Members,

I would like to give our members a short update and summary of the year at Agassiz Water Users District (AWUD), and some of our plans for the upcoming year.

2022 was a good year overall, we were able to finish the year with a positive net income, while also being able to make some progress on updating infrastructure and meter replacements this last year. Although prices of many supplies are still abnormally high, the supply chain issues that were widespread in 2021 have become much more manageable, allowing us to better plan future projects and keep our inventory stocked for any unforeseen repairs and maintenance that arise.

The cold winter of 2021/2022 did cause some concern in the spring of 2022 with the threat of freeze ups on our water system. But with the help of our members, and narrowing down some of our high-risk areas, we were able to make it through the spring without widespread issues, which is always a relief.

We are currently working with the ND State Water commission on a construction project slated for the summers of 2023 and 2024 to upgrade 2 of our transmission lines. As the system has grown and changed in the last 50 years, so have the water demands and expectations of our members. One thing that has become evident is that our transmission line feeding the north end of Grand Forks has reached its capacity and will not be able to effectively handle a significant industrial customer or growth in customers in that area. Our plan is to upsize that line to help serve the current customers we have, while also preparing for growth that may occur in the future. The other transmission line we are planning to replace is our water main that feeds the City of Manvel. This is more of a 3-part goal to upsize and improve the flow to the City of Manvel, while also rerouting much of the water line out of the spring flood zone, and provide some more redundancy in order to help ensure water supply to the town and its surrounding area specifically during the spring flood season.

Managing water loss continues to be one of our main focuses at the district, every gallon of water in our pipes has a cost associated with it, and we need to make our best effort to help minimize the amount of gallons we lose on an annual basis. Currently the main cause of our water loss is leaking pipes in the ground, most of our water lines are 50 years old and just like many other things it has a useful life and we are approaching the end of some of our original glued joint pipes. This is why it is crucial to steadily make improvements to the water system. Our members can also help by calling in and notifying us of any unusual wet spots, or standing water that they notice. Often times the homeowner and landowners are more familiar with the area than we are and are instrumental in helping us locate leaks that could otherwise be mistaken for natural wet spots. The 2nd biggest reason for water loss is water that is being used but is not being accounted for, most commonly, unmetered connections to the water system. Common examples of this would be outside yard hydrants, detached garages, shops, other secondary dwellings that are receiving water but

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are not being metered and charged accordingly. If you believe one of these scenarios is taking place, please contact our office so that we can work together to correct the situation.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Board of Directors, and our Staff members Michelle, Karen, and Jordan for their support and willingness to work for the district and its members. Overall, it was another good year for AWUD, and I look forward to the future.

John Eaton
Manager
Agassiz Water Users District

