WHAT'S ON TAP
Summer 2008
The KKW Water District Newsletter & Annual Consumer Confidence Report Vol. 6 No. 2 www.kkw.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MISSION POSSIBLE:

OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE THE HIGHEST QUALITY DRINKING WATER AND CUSTOMER SERVICE AT A REASONABLE PRICE.

Did you know.....That falling raindrops are actually shaped like small hamburger buns (minus the sesame seeds) and not like tear drops as commonly portrayed. As rain falls, the air below the drop pushes up on the bottom, causing the drop to flatten out somewhat, resulting in a bun-like shape.

ISSUES, INITIATIVES AND INFORMATION

Norm Labbe, Superintendent

A Water Rate Decrease, Increase or Both? For the first time ever, the District is applying for a new set of water rates without proposing or even expecting any increase in revenues. Why? As part of a stipulation (legal agreement) recently issued by the Maine Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) under Docket 2007-66 (which related to minimum billing for 'small' customers), the District has completed a Cost of Service (COS) study to determine the respective costs for serving different classes of customers. As a result, the District has filed for a revenue-neutral rate schedule that incorporates both the results of the COS study and incentives for water conservation. The proposed rates are scheduled to be implemented on April 1, 2009.

If the proposed rates are approved, over half of our residential customers are expected to see a noticeable drop in their water bill. Those that use very little water (600 to 1200 cubic feet per quarter), will see their water bill drop by up to 24%. How will we recover the lost revenue? The larger residential water users, both annual and seasonal, and customers who irrigate extensively will see increases in their water bills. Also, all non-residential customers who use large volumes of water will see an increase. While private fire suppression rates are seeing the same type of adjustment (downward for smaller fire services and upward for larger ones), public fire suppression rates, which are paid for by each of the seven towns we serve, will remain unchanged. We hope these new rates will reward our many "small" customers who make an effort to conserve water while reminding the larger water users that water is a valuable resource that should not be wasted. Please call us or visit the MPUC's website at www.maine.gov/mpuc (Docket No 2008-228) for more information.

Comprehensive Plan Update As part of MPUC Docket No. 2007-66 and stipulation, the District is currently updating its Comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan. In addition to planning for growth-related system improvements, the Plan is a key part of the calculation of our System Development Charge (SDC), an impact fee that is assessed primarily to new customers in order for us to recover our growth-related capital costs. By July 1, 2008, we plan to file an updated SDC, reflecting both additional growth-related projects and a reduction in previously anticipated costs due to our recent successes in developing very economical groundwater supplies rather than the more expensive surface water supplies as originally assumed. At press time, it isn't yet clear what the net affect will be on the SDC. Updates will be posted on our website at www.kkw.org.

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BETTER SECURITY FOR YOUR PROTECTION

Greg Pargellis, Chief Operator

The District utilizes a state-of-the-art security system that continuously monitors all vital operations on 24-7 basis, including the Treatment Plant, booster pump stations, storage tanks, and well fields. Part of this security system includes the use of high resolution surveillance cameras that record and store real-time images. These high-tech cameras include a full array of analysis features such as zoom, playback, slow motion, etc. and play an important role in helping us protect our water supply, treatment and distribution operations against potential threats.

The initial system procurement and set up cost was funded by a grant from *Homeland Security*, while more recent security enhancements were paid for by the District. The District would like our customers to know that we understand the importance of keeping our facilities and your drinking water safe, secure and reliable.

Surveillance cameras like this are located throughout the District's facilities to keep an eye on activities and provide operational security.

Consumer Confidence Report - Drinking Water Information

CONGRATULATIONS! YOUR WATER MEETS OR EXCEEDS ALL FEDERAL AND STATE DRINKING WATER REQUIREMENTS.

Since its incorporation in 1921, the Kennebunk, Kennebunkport & Wells Water District (District) has considered water quality of the utmost importance. The District vigilantly monitors and safeguards its water supplies and is proud to report that it continued to meet or exceed all drinking water quality requirements in 2007. Our highly trained and State licensed Water System Operators are committed to providing our customers with drinking water that surpasses State and Federal standards for safety and quality. In doing so, we work to conserve, preserve and protect our water sources.

WATER FACTS

The Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wants you to know…….that sources of drinking water, both tap and bottled water, include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife;

Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming;

Pesticides and herbicides that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses;

Organic chemical contaminants including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems; and

Radioactive contaminants which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and the Maine Dept. of Human Services, Division of Health Engineering, Drinking Water Program (DWP) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Regulations are also established to limit contaminants in bottled water to ensure the same protection for public health.

WATER SOURCE

The District's primary source of drinking water is Branch Brook, a surface water supply that forms the town line between Kennebunk and Wells and originates in Sanford. The District also utilizes groundwater from its three well sites to supplement Branch Brook during periods of peak seasonal demand, high run-off events, and as otherwise desired. The well sites include Merriland River Well (1 well), Plant Wells (2 wells) and the Harriseckett Road Wells (2 wells). The District also maintains mutual-aid system interconnections with the Biddeford-Saco Water Company and the York Water District.

Protection of the Branch Brook watershed and well sites remains a top priority. We continue to purchase property and pursue/acquire conservation easements within the watershed and wellhead protection zones as opportunities arise. You can help too. Please be careful as you live, work and play to limit what goes into storm drains, tributaries and surface waters to help preserve the water quality and the diverse ecosystems it supports. If you witness suspicious activity within the Branch Brook watershed or at the well sites, please report it immediately by calling the District at 985-2362 or notify the appropriate Police Department (Kennebunk - 985-6121, Wells - 646-9354, Sanford - 324-9170).

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

The Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) is an initiative started by the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments. The underlying intent of SWAP is to generate awareness and to better protect drinking water supply sources from potential contamination threats. A well-head protection management plan is currently being developed for the well sites. The overall risk rating assigned to the Branch Brook supply was low. Future development and soil erosion were identified as potential low to moderate risks for Branch Brook. Assessment results are available at public water suppliers, town offices and the DWP. For more SWAP information, you may contact the DWP at (207) 287-2070.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING/REPORTING

To comply with State and Federal drinking water regulations, we annually perform over 10,000 tests on your drinking water. Although not required, we conduct an additional 15,000 tests to ensure that the highest quality water is produced and distributed. We also constantly monitor the Filtration Plant, wells, booster stations and water storage reservoirs with continuous on-line instruments. If you would like more information relating to water quality tests, please give us a call at 985-2362. The chart on page 3, indicating 2007 test results, excludes 72 individual parameters that tested below detectable levels. The definitions and abbreviations that follow the chart are provided to give a clearer understanding of the results.

TREATMENT PROCESS

SURFACE WATER from Branch Brook flows into our Filtration Plant where multiple processes are used to remove particles and microorganisms. The first process is COAGULATION, where chemicals (primarily food-grade alum) are added causing particles to destabilize and attract to each other. Then FLOCCULATION occurs in mixing chambers where the small particles combine into larger particles called floc. Next, CLARIFICATION occurs in the settling basins where the heavier floc particles settle out. Chlorine is then introduced for PRIMARY DISINFECTION. The FILTRATION process follows where clarified water passes through dual media filters (sand and anthracite) to remove any remaining floc particles. Finished water chemistry is then optimized for CORROSION CONTROL with sodium silicates, FLUORIDATION, and SECONDARY DISINFECTION with chloramines prior to being pumped into our distribution system where nearly 209 miles of watermain and seven storage tanks distribute water to the District's customers.

GROUND WATER from any of the our three well sites (5 wells) is pumped to our Pumping, Treatment and Recycling Facility (PTR) where the water chemistry is optimized for CORROSION CONTROL with sodium silicates, FLUORIDATION, and DISINFECTION with chloramines before being pumped directly into the distribution system.

HEALTH INFORMATION

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain trace amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk for infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. For more information about contaminants and potential health effects and EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants, contact EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or the ME DWP (287-2070).

Consumer Confidence Report - Water Quality Test Results

Contaminant	Date	Result	MCL	MCLG	Source
Microbiological					
TOTAL COLIFORM (1)	Oct-07	**1 pos**	1 pos or 5%	0 pos	Naturally present in the environment
Inorganics					
BARIUM	2/14/2007	**0.004 ppm**	2 ppm	2 ppm	Discharge of drilling wastes. Discharge from metal refineries. Erosion of natural deposits.
FLUORIDE (3)	8/7/2007	**1.4 ppm**	4 ppm	4 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits. Water additive which promotes strong teeth. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products					
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACID (HAA5)	RAA	**14.58 ppb** **Range (10.2-21.0 ppb)**	60 ppb	0 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
TOTAL TRIHALOMETH-ANES (TTHM)	RAA	**17.85 ppb** **Range (5.0-30.9 ppb)**	80 ppb	0 ppb	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
CHLORINE RESIDUAL	RAA	**2.18 ppm**	4 ppm	4 ppm	Water additive used for disinfection.
TURBIDITY LEVELS	4/16/2007	**0.19 ntu (Plant)**	0.3 ntu in 95% of samp		Soil and organic matter runoff
	12/18/2007	**0.23 ntu (PTR)**	1.0 ntu maximum limit		

Definitions:

- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.
- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health.
- Running Annual Average (RAA): The average of all monthly or quarterly samples for the last year at all sample locations.
- Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Units:

ppm = parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L); pos = positve samples; ntu = nephelometric turbidity units;
ppb = parts per billion or micrograms per liter (µg/L); pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).

Notes:

1) Total Coliform Bacteria: Reported as the highest monthly number of positive samples, for water systems that take < 40 samples per year.
2) Arsenic: The U.S. EPA adopted the new MCL standard in October 2001. Water systems must meet this new standard by January 23, 2006.
3) Fluoride: Fluoride levels must be maintained between 1-2 ppm, for those water systems that fluoridate the water.
4) Lead/Copper: Action levels (AL) are measured at consumer's tap. 90% of the tests must be equal to or below the action level.
5) Nitrate: Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant seek advice from your health care provider.
6) Gross Alpha: Action level over 5 pCi/L requires testing for Radium. Action level over 15 pCi/L requires testing for Uranium and Radon.
7) Uranium: The U.S. EPA adopted the new MCL standard of 30 ug/L(ppb), in Dec-2000. Water systems must meet this new standard after Dec-2003.
8) Radon: The State of Maine adopted a Maximum Exposure Guideline (MEG) for Radon in drinking water at 4000 pCi/L, effective 1/1/07. If Radon exceeds the MEG in water, treatment is recommended. It is also advisable to test indoor air for Radon. The U.S.EPA is proposing setting Federal standards for Radon in public drinking water.
9) TTHM/HAA5: Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids (TTHM and HAA5) are formed as a by-product of drinking water chlorination. This chemical reaction occurs when chlorine combines with naturally occurring organic matter in water.

All other regulated drinking water contaminants were below detection levels - NO VIOLATIONS WERE ISSUED IN 2007.

Waiver: 1/1/2005-12/31/2007 Partial waiver (TCP, TQ1, TQ3)

Important Lead Notice:

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Wells Water District is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting in your plumbing for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at *http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead*.

Please call us at 985-2362 with any water quality questions that you may have.

HYDROSOLIDS RECYCLING - THE PROOF IS IN THE PUDDING

Bill Snyder, Plant Manager

Microscopic suspended particles that have been removed from Branch Brook by our treatment and filtration process consist mostly of water bound solids material referred to as hydrosolids. Over the years, we accumulated around 15,000 cubic yards (about 22,000,000 pounds) of these hydrosolids which were stored in huge stockpiles next to and around our drying lagoons. Until recently, the only acceptable disposal method was to truck the hydrosolids off to a secure landfill at a cost estimated to be over $800,000.

Thankfully, a few years ago, we employed an ingenious method to spread and freeze-dry the hydrosolids during the winter months, leaving behind a dry coffee grind-like byproduct that does not re-absorb water. Removing the water through freeze-drying reduced the original weight and volume by a factor of six to approximately 2,500 cubic yards, thereby reducing the estimated disposal cost to around $130,000. Much better than $800,000, but still a hefty sum nonetheless.

Not satisfied, the District continued searching for ways to further reduce its hydrosolids disposal cost and in the process discovered a company, Resource Management Inc. (RMI), who specializes in manufacturing composite topsoil. Working together, we created a recipe for mixing and blending the coffee grind-like dried hydrosolids with sanitary compost and with other loam soils to develop a manufactured topsoil that was eventually licensed by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in 2005 for a variety of agricultural topsoil applications, including growing lawns. The District initially spent $127,000 to construct several large holding lagoons and a drying bed in order to process the hydrosolids into manufactured topsoil. However, since this initial investment, the disposal of our hydrosolids has become a revenue neutral and somewhat simple operation whereby the proceeds from selling the manufactured topsoil cover all the costs (labor, equipment, materials, and soil analysis) associated with producing this highly sought after and environmentally friendly topsoil product. Therefore, what would have cost us a ton (excuse the pun) to dispose of is now a cost-neutral operation and should remain so in the future. The District is proud to acknowledge that we were the first water utility in the State of Maine to be approved for such a program and are now setting the pace for hydrosolids reuse.

Step 1. Sediment is pumped from the District's treatment plant into one of its four "sludge" holding lagoons.

Step 2. Surface water evaporates during the hot summer months leaving a two foot thick pudding-like "sludge" behind.

Step 3. During the winter, "sludge" is removed from the lagoon and spread 3" thick on the drying bed to be freeze-dried.

Step 4. The freeze-drying process transforms the "sludge" into hydrosolids that look and feel similar to coffee grinds.

Step 5. A rotary drum screen is used to blend hydrosolids, compost and loam to manufacture a high quality topsoil.

Step 6. Here's a test patch of vibrant rye grass growing on a base layer of the District's manufactured topsoil.

WATER CONSERVATION 101— IRRIGATION SPOTLIGHT ON COST EFFECTIVE WAYS TO GO GREEN.

Proven tips to reduce irrigation demand and save you money……$$$$$$$$$$$$

1.) Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants. Chunks of bark, peat moss or gravel slows down evaporation.
2.) Water during the cool parts of the day. Early morning is better than dusk since it helps prevent the growth of fungus.
3.) Don't water the lawn or garden on windy days as the wind causes excessive evaporation, minimizing the benefit.
4.) Cut down watering on cool and overcast days and don't water in the rain. Adjust or deactivate automatic sprinklers.
5.) Set lawn mower blades one notch higher. Longer grass means less evaporation, reducing the frequency of irrigating.
6.) Drive your car onto the lawn to wash it. The rinse water will help water the grass while reducing runoff.
7.) When the kids want to cool off, use the sprinkler in an area where your lawn needs it most, moving it as required.
8.) Xeriscape – replace your lawn and high-water-using trees and plants with less thirsty and drought resistant plantings.
9.) Divide your watering cycle into shorter periods to reduce runoff and allow for better absorption when you water.
10.) Check outdoor hoses, pipes, faucets, connections and fixtures for leaks. Fixing even small leaks can mean big savings.
11.) Remember to weed your lawn and garden regularly. Weeds compete with other plants for nutrients, light and water.
12.) Set a kitchen timer when watering your lawn or garden with a hose or manually operated sprinkler.
13.) Avoid the use of water toys that require a constant flow of water. A flowrate of only 3 gpm = 180 gallons per hour.
14.) Aerate your lawn. Punching holes in your lawn about 6 inches apart helps water to reach the roots rather than run off.
15.) Place an empty tuna can on your lawn to catch and measure the water output of your sprinklers. Adjust as necessary.

BENEATH THE SURFACE - $757K SRF LOAN BOLSTERS PIPE REPLACEMENT

Don Gobeil, Technical Services Director

As we rapidly approach the midpoint of 2008, we are catching our collective breath from what has been a very busy and successful first half of the construction season. Due to the amount of work planned this year, our crews deftly braved the winter weather and began installing pipe in early February, and have continued steadily ever since.

Among the completed projects highlighting the first half of the year include replacing 780 feet of old 10-inch cast iron main with new 16-inch ductile iron pipe (DIP) along Fishers Lane in Kennebunkport; replacing 300 feet of heavily tuberculated 6-inch cast iron along Island Beach Road on Drakes Island in Wells with new 8" DIP; installing 1,000 feet of new 12-inch DIP along Alewive Road in Kennebunk, and successfully completing another 1,400 foot long upgrade along the Route One corridor in Ogunquit by replacing obsolete and undersized 10-inch cast iron with new 20-inch DIP. This last project gets us closer to our ultimate goal of replacing and upgrading the entire Route One major distribution corridor from our Treatment Plant to downtown Ogunquit. This major undertaking was actually started in the 1970s and has continued as funds have allowed ever since. At this point, two segments remain; a 900 foot section along Route One in Ogunquit (which is scheduled for the spring of 2009), and a 3,000 foot long section in Wells between Old County Road and the Wells/Ogunquit town line.

It is the 3,000 foot section in Wells that is the focus of some recent good news. As a result of a painstaking application process undertaken by the District, we have recently been notified that we have been awarded access to special low interest funding that can be used to complete this 3,000 foot section in 2008. The low interest funding (typically 2% below market rates) is made available to us through the Maine State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) and administered by the Maine Municipal Bond Bank. The SRF program utilizes a 5:1 Federal to State match in order to provide low interest loans to water utilities for much needed capital projects including system infrastructure upgrades. It will allow us to finance this large project at rates well below what could be acquired on the open market. As a result, we are currently surveying and designing this major project (utilizing only in-house resources) in anticipation of bidding the project this summer for installation in the fall. Residents and businesses along the Route One project area between Old County Road and the Wells/Ogunquit town line will receive further information from us as project plans are developed and a construction schedule is set. We are very excited about this opportunity to upgrade a significant portion of our transmission capacity with a very attractive funding source. It represents a win for our customers and will allow us more operational flexibility in operating our distribution system in the coming years.

No Power? No Problem - KKW Keeps The Water Flowing

Rob Weymouth, Facilities Manager

Have you ever had the electricity go out and wondered why you still had water available at your tap? Well, whether you have or not, rest assured that the District has designed its treatment and distribution system with numerous safeguards to operate for prolonged periods in the event the power grid goes down.

First, the District maintains seven storage tanks located at high points throughout our distribution system. During a power outage, the water continues to flow "downhill" by gravity from these higher elevation storage tanks to our customers who are located at a lower elevation. The District can store up to 7.6 million gallons of water in these tanks which can maintain normal system pressure for one to three days, depending on customer demand.

Second, within seconds of a power failure, two standby diesel generators, one 800 kilowatts (kW) and the other 350 kW, located at our Treatment Plant and PTR (pumping, treatment and recycling) facilities, respectively, will start automatically. This enables us to supplying our customers with the continuous high quality drinking water they desire without interruption.

We also have other facilities that require power to supply water, boost water pressure and move water to different areas of the distribution system. For these operations, we have a portable trailer-mounted 200 kW diesel generator that can be towed to any facility as required to provide emergency power until the power grid is restored. Therefore, whether the lights go out for just a few hours or much longer, you can rest assured the District will continue delivering high quality drinking water to your tap.

"Papa Bear" - is our largest 800 kW standby diesel generator that runs the Treatment Plant during power outages to produce up to 6 mgd.

"Mama Bear" - refers to our 350 kW standby diesel generator that runs the PTR facility, producing up to 3 mgd of treated well water.

"Baby Bear" - this ultra quiet 200 kW portable diesel generator can be towed to any District facility as needed when the power goes out.

Take a Hike - Really, We Invite You To

Scott Minor, Assistant Superintendent

In order to protect and preserve our surface water supply source, the District has acquired in excess of 2,000 acres over the years within the 8,000-acre watershed that drains into Branch Brook. Owning and maintaining these watershed lands in their natural state is the best way to ensure a healthy ecosystem and high quality drinking water supply by minimizing soil erosion, eliminating contamination sources, and providing for precipitation uptake and brook recharge capabilities. As a result, the District's lands, which are open to non-motorized public access, offer some of the most beautiful contiguous natural areas to explore in York County. So the next time you're looking for an adventure or just a little fresh air and exercise, take a hike on us.

Typical of the beautiful scenery available to visitors throughout the District's Branch Brook Watershed.

Did you know.....That one kilowatt (kW) is equivalent to 1.34 horsepower. So a typical car rated at 200 horsepower can produce the same power as a 268 kW generator. By comparison, an average person riding a bicycle generates about 1/4 horsepower or around 0.19 kW.

Notable Quotables

"It isn't pollution that's harming the environment. It's the impurities in our air and water that's doing it."
- Vice President Dan Quayle

"Once, during prohibition, I was forced to live for days on nothing but food and water."
- Comedian W. C. Fields

"I bought some instant water one time but I didn't know what to add to it."
- Comedian Steven Wright

Issues, Initiatives and Information - Cont'd from page 1

Norm Labbe, Superintendent

Water Management, the Environment and Revenues Times are changing. It wasn't that long ago that Branch Brook was our "crown jewel" water source, other than for a limited interconnection with Biddeford & Saco Water Company. Nowadays, Branch Brook is supplying only about 60% of our water needs, with the remaining coming from our new, economical groundwater supplies. In addition, we also have significantly enhanced our backup supplies with Biddeford & Saco Water Company and with the York Water District. What does this mean? We are now in a position to manage our water resources in a manner that will best serve both the environment and our customers. Until 2006, during dry summer periods, Branch Brook could not keep up with our water demands. At times, the flow of water in the Brook downstream of our Plant was nearly nonexistent. As of last summer, with the help of our new groundwater supplies, we have an extra three million gallons per day (3 MGD) of great quality, peak season water to work with, resulting in the healthiest summertime downstream flow rates in Branch Brook in several decades. We now have an opportunity to sell some (up to 0.43 MGD) Branch Brook "spring water" to a spring water bottling company, Poland Spring, which could generate up to $500,000 per year in additional revenues. We have recently negotiated the basic terms of an agreement that our Board of Trustees is prepared to execute at their June 25th meeting. Water quality improvements and additional inflation-fighting revenues from the ultimate renewable resource…….not a bad deal, from our perspective.

Water Fluoridation – Truth, Dogma, Motherhood and Apple Pie Your response to our recent (Winter 2008) article on fluoridation was enlightening, for two reasons. One, we now have proof that many of you actually do read our newsletters. Thank you for that! We also now know how polarizing the water fluoridation issue is and how firmly entrenched the pro and con camps have become. It's become so polarized that it's difficult to even find objective information, as each source appears to have taken a pro or con side on the issue. From the best we can tell, the following "pro" and "con" statements appear to be true:

- Pro- The proper amount of fluoride applied to teeth and/or in mouth saliva does reduce the frequency of and development of dental caries (cavities).
- Pro - The dental community strongly feels that fluoridation is a significant part of their overall efforts to improve national dental health.
- Con - Excess ingestion of fluoride (somewhat above that which is assumed to be ingested with drinking fluoridated water), has both adverse cosmetic (tooth mottling) and health effects. These health effects (relating to bones, brain, pancreas, etc.) are currently being further studied by the scientific community to better determine the actual risk factors relating to higher levels of fluoride in the body.
- Con - We at the Water District feel that dosing our customers with a medical or chemical compound (known to have a narrow range of effectiveness and adverse side effects at higher levels), based solely upon general water consumption estimates, is at best random and at worst irresponsible.

In summary, the fluoridation of public drinking water is a huge, highly polarized, regulatory "motherhood and apple pie" issue that we at the Water District will not be able to resolve. What we can do however is open up the discussion, try to minimize any potential adverse effects by carefully monitoring its dosage (currently at 1.1 PPM) and by encouraging our State regulators to allow us to add a smaller amount (0.7 PPM) of fluoride to the water (as is currently done in Canada). In the end, it rests in your hands, as outlined in Maine Public Law Title 22 M.R.S.A., Sections 2653-2656. Only you can vote to decide whether or not your water utility will continue adding fluoride to your drinking water.

Customer Corner - News You Can Use

Wayne Brockway, Treasurer

Customer Payments - Over the past few years, many of you have begun to use third party bill payment services for remittance of your bill. When this type of service is used, the District receives a check with no bill stub. As long as your water account number is correctly displayed on the check, your payment will be applied correctly. On occasion, checks arrive with no account number or an incorrect number. When this happens, we do our best to apply such payments correctly; however, the potential exists to have your payment misapplied. Therefore, if you use such a payment service, please take a moment to verify that your correct account number is being used when payments are made.

Conservation Kits for Sale - Many of you may not be aware that we have water conservation kits available for just one dollar. These kits contain two low-flow showerheads, a low-flow faucet aerator and leak detection tablets for toilets. They are available in our Main Office at 92 Main Street in Kennebunk.

Trustees Meetings

The Board of Trustees typically hold their regular monthly meetings at 3:00 PM on the fourth Wednesday (January - October) and the third Wednesday (November and December) at the District's 92 Main Street Office in Kennebunk. These meetings are open to the public so please call ahead to confirm times and dates if you plan to attend.

Kennebunk, Kennebunkport & Wells Water District
P.O. Box 88
Kennebunk, Maine 04043

Did you know....."Because most food contains a large amount of water, you obtain approximately 3 1/2 cups from what is eaten over the course of a day. Interestingly, the body's metabolism itself is another source, since — as it makes and uses energy — one of its daily byproducts is about 1/2 cup of water. So, if you add up your losses (two cups for the lungs, two for sweating, and six for the intestines and kidneys), you come up with a total loss of ten cups.....not counting any excess lost through perspiration during exercise. Therefore, taking into account the approximately four cups provided by food and metabolism, the average person needs to drink six to eight cups of water daily to keep functioning well." — Mother Earth News

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT - MILESTONES AND NEW FACES IN 2008

Cindy Rounds, Administrative Assistant

The District recognizes that its employees are essential for developing and maintaining our superior customer service reputation. We are honored to have many long time employees whose commitment and dedication have contributed to our success of providing outstanding service to our customers every day. We are thrilled to shine our Spotlight on employees who have attained longevity milestones. Reaching the 20 year mark in 2008 are Foreman Eddie Thyng, Facilities Manager Robbie Weymouth, Meter Shop Person Steve Spofford and Billing Clerk Brenda Hamilton. Joining them with 15 years is Treatment Plant Manager Bill Snyder. Thanks to all of you for making the District exceptional in so many ways.

In June, we bid a fond farewell to long-time Stock Clerk Ray Ingalls. Co-workers, friends and family gathered recently to celebrate Ray's 29-year career with the District and provide many warm wishes for a long and happy retirement. Although he plans to continue conducting fire and safety training for Kennebunk Fire & Rescue, Ray's retirement will allow him more time to enjoy his family and hobbies, with fishing and hunting up there near the top.

We're are also pleased to introduce Norm Nunan and Brian McBride, our two newest employee team members who have joined the Treatment Plant operations staff. Their previous education, training and diverse work experience make them perfect candidates for the challenges and rigors associated with producing and supplying high quality drinking water to our valued customers. As Operators, they will gain the additional skills and specialized knowledge that will allow them to successfully accomplish the District's mission of delivering the highest quality drinking water to its customers at a reasonable price. Welcome aboard gentlemen!

Local residents Norm Nunan of Kennebunkport (l) and Brian "Skip" McBride of Kennebunk (r) recently joined the District's skilled and experienced Treatment Plant team.