

MBHWA MEMBERS ASKED THE QUESTION, HERE IS THE ANSWER

FROM THE BEGINNING UNTIL TODAY

In 1980, several Jasper residents gathered together to address our water problems. Each summer we faced poor, unsafe water shortages. The Health Department holding some water districts under penalty and fines due to their unsafe water quality.

After several meetings, those men decided to pool their resources and donate whatever they could to solve the water problems. They donated time and money. Knocked on doors to build interest and seeking support for their efforts. After months and reaching out for advise, they contacted an engineering firm that agreed to help devise a plan that would meet our needs.

Next there needed to be enough residents that agreed and sign up to purchase the water to warrant developing a water system. This took months of knocking on doors, meetings with engineers and potential customers, searching for grants and loans and looking for a sustainable water source.

Once a final plan was devised, it was back to the public to secure contracts, water line right-of-ways and funding. After months and many meetings in three counties, the Ozarks Mountain Regional Public Water Authority was formed, Each of the water districts given a seat on the Governing Board. After much discussion, contracts were drawn and signed by twenty member water districts in four counties. Mockingbird Hill Water Association is one of the twenty.

Mockingbird Hill Water Association, hereafter noted as MBHWA was officially formed on March 24, 2009, John Meyers elected President, Ed Manor Vice President and Mike Liles Secretary. By-Laws and Rules and Regulations developed and with 150 members. The young Association was off and running.

It must be noted that MBHWA is not owned by any one person. It is a 501-3C, not for profit, and all Board Members and Officers are not paid, they volunteer their time and efforts. Officers, account, and water operators all work out of their homes. There is no central MBHWA office. All in an effort to keep members monthly cost as low as possible.

In 2009, MBHWA, with 150 members took possession of the water well and existing pipe system that dates to 1976. MBHWA is a "gravity" water system, meaning, we do not have or require water pumps. Our system just goes up and down the mountains letting gravity take it along. Since then we have added over 200 members and extended over 70 miles of main water lines. As with most things that age, your water system is beginning to show it's age. The system pipes are old and starting to break down. Continued patching of the water lines is a consistent, almost daily problem. Water loss now exceeds water sold. With the consistent water line breaks the system pressure is almost uncontrollable. Corrections must and are being be made.

FROM TODAY AND INTO THE FUTURE

MBHWA IS CURRENTLY WORKING WITH;

Engineering Services, Inc
1207 Old Missouri Rd
Springdale, Ar. 72764

Arkansas Rural Water Association
P.O. Box 860
Lonoke, Ar. 72986

Your Water Board has known for some time that your water system is in serious disrepair. For over a year, the Board has, while fighting to keep the water flowing, searched for solutions to the problems your water system is experiencing.

Water and air pressure due to cracks and leaks in the system, lack of sufficient control valves to control water flow and direction, insufficient number of air blow off devices to expel air in the system, insufficient number and placement of pressure relief valve stations, insufficient number and placement of inline water meters to aid and speed the search for water leaks and the list goes on. Just about the time we get the water flowing in one section of the system, we experience another leak in another section which affects the whole system. (remember, gravity flow)

ARKANSAS RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION (ARWA)

MBHWA is a member of Arkansas Rural Water Association, an Arkansas State agency. Basically, the ARWA monitors and assist all domestic water and sewer districts. They have a staff of instructors that hold water and sewer classes all over the State. ARWA is responsible for the testing and issue of State Sewer and Water license. When asked, ARWA also has a staff that travels all over the State lending what ever aid Water and Sewer systems require.

ARWA has made repeated trips to Newton County to assist us with our water problems. They have the latest leak and pressure finding equipment. They have been invaluable working with us on and off for the last few weeks. They have committed to come back as often as we require.

ENGINEERING SERVICES, INC (INC)

ESI, is water and sewer engineering company. MBHWA has been working with ESI for the last few months. They have been collecting data. Comparing our current water installation (designed for 150 meters) to our over 400 meter demand. We have furnished ESI with our current GPS, water meter, PRV stations, fire hydrant and other equipment locations. They are currently figuring what changes need to be made to take care of our current water membership along with anticipated growth.

COST TO UP GRADE THE WATER SYSTEM

Currently, your water system is an,"Association" which limits our access to a great deal of Grants and loans. MBHWA is in the process of changing from an Association to A Public Water Authority. This change, in name only, will give us greater access to more grants and loans.

UP DATES

To keep our members apprised of our progress, we will post updates as they are warranted.