

LEMMON VALLEY ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF JUNE 18, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 P.M. A quorum of officers was present. Officers present were Barry Bouchard, Pat Ceccarelli, Norma Brownell, Mike Stone and Ramona Bouchard. Carol Hart was excused.

Announcements:

Lemmon Drive reconstruction is scheduled to start July 21, 2003 and to end September 5, 2003

Barry announced that the LVA now has its own domain on the web, which is www.lvassoc.org. The LVA web site is now taking ads for free. Ad information will be on the LVA web site.

TMWA SYSTEM:

Barry introduced John Erwin, Manager of Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA.)

John Erwin started by giving a history of TMWA, formally Westpac or Sierra Pacific Power. All of his comments are in the context of TMWA's service area, which has nothing to do with Washoe Counties Department of Water Resources.

In 1943/44, the Stead Air Force base was built. In 1958 the federal government laid a water line along old Highway 395. It has a 14 inch steel pipe that runs from Stead to Highland Treatment Plant. Now known as the Highland Treatment Reservoir. One well is still operating for construction water from original Air Force. The Stead main is over 50 years old.

He then showed a map of their service area. Including the Silver Lake Water System, which was purchased from Lear.

Lemmon Valley water hydrographic basin is split into two subdivisions, east & west at earth quake fault.

Stead is served with surface water from the Truckee River via the old main. TMWA owns 4 wells. Two are not in production & 2 are in production for a total of 600 acre feet (3 million gallons a day). The original boundary encompassed a huge area. In the 1960's another look was taken and it was decided that they couldn't service that large of an area and decreased the service area.

Water from the 2 production wells is used to meet their peak demands during the summer. In the winter time they inject water back into the wells to try & protect the aquifer.

Mike Stone wanted to know what's the capacity of 14" line? 4.25 million gallons a day is maximum capacity of the line. All capacity is allocated. All developers have to bring Truckee River water rights to be put on the water system. There aren't any plans at this time to increase pipe size.

All homes built since July, 1988 are on metered water. Older residences are still on a flat rate and are being converted to metered rates.

Someone in the audience wanted to know where the water came from that the county was selling recently. Mr. Erwin stated that the Sierra Sage Golf Course was converted to treated affluent water and the well water that Sierra Sage was using is the water that was up for sale. Someone wanted to know if the water could be used outside the basin. Mr. Erwin stated that the water had to be used in the west basin.

There is no benefit or harm from the recharge that is going on in the west basin from TMWA.

TMWA just finished their 20-year plan for resources. The system can go until 2025 just by converting 20,000 acre-feet of water right from farmers (irrigation).

In dry years, TMWA uses water released from reservoirs and by pumping ground water. This can be repeated for 9 years. Water is not the problem for future growth. The problem is not enough buildable land, not enough jobs for the continued growth within the community and air quality. The casinos in California will impact our future. There is sufficient water rights to convert to take water system to 2030/45.

Barry asked about the well off military road, how is the water used? Mr. Erwin stated that Horizon Hills has a water quality problem from its groundwater wells. There was an agreement that TMWA would supply the Counties Horizon Hills from Truckee River water and the Counties Military Road well is used to pay back TMWA, so there is no net change in water pumping from the basin as the amount of pumped water is still within the same basin. The Military Road well is supplying approximately 60-65 acre-feet. This well is not connected to Lemmon Valley system; it is only connected to TMWA and only used during the summer months.

Lemmon Valley Water:

Barry introduced Dan Dragan. Mr. Dragan stated that he mailed out 511 surveys and only received 115 back. Majority of those responding doesn't want county water. The dollars indicated in the original presentation was without any grant funds. Two bills, #200 & 233 approved by legislature approved grant funds for water systems. If the county obtains the grant funding, they will use money to expand the system, so that those whose wells fail can hook up to system. The existing system can service approx one-half of the Heppner subdivision. If there were a need to service the entire Heppner subdivision, the system would need to build another water tank higher up on the hill.

Mike wanted to know from audience how many people are having problems or expect to have well problems in the near future. Approx one third of the audience raised their hands.

Mr. Dragan stated that approx 5 to 15 wells will need to be deepened or redrilled per year. Water quality for municipal systems has to be measured for 127 different pollutants. Private wells don't have to be tested for pollutants unless the home is being sold, so there isn't any water quality analysis on private wells. As a matter of fact, there hasn't been any new data on private well quality since 1994.

Pat advised that her well was redrilled 3 years ago, at a cost of \$15,000. She wanted to know what would be the cost of hook-up if it were available. Dan didn't indicate.

Grant money available is at 55% with 45% from the community being serviced. The grant money could be used for interim recharge until a system would be available to those homes higher up on the hill. The county has already put in for a 55% grant for interim recharge.

In 1994 the legislature passed the Well Water Credit bill that allows people to exchange the right to drill a domestic well to hook up to a domestic water service.

Many in the audience had a concern that if they abandoned their wells and hooked up to the county system that their abandoned water would enable future development. Barry explained that no, that there would be no net change in water available in Lemmon Valley as all wells (domestic and the Counties) are drawing from the same basin, and that any future development, would be dependent on the developer bringing in additional water. The State Water Engineer has a moratorium in place that prohibits subdividing in Lemmon Valley. The number of water hook-ups to the county system is stagnate at 1206 and has been since the introduction of the water system.

Regional Water Planning Commission is currently looking at a plan to reimburse people who feel that their wells are being affected by utilities and would allow them to apply for reimbursement if they have to redrill their well or deepen their well.

Mr. Dragan stated that everyone should know how deep their well is to try and determine when they will have well problems.

Since 1984, approximately 140 wells have been redrilled or deepened. Some wells may have been redrilled due to well failure.

Dan Dragan introduced Doug Coulter, Senior Engineer, Washoe County Health Department.

Mr. Coulter stated that state regulations require that a well has to be capped by a professional to make sure that surface water and sewer water doesn't have a way into the aquifer.

There isn't any law that forces a domestic well owner to plug a well if there is utility water going by in the street, unless the well fails.

If someone has to deepen a well, do it right the first time, as a well can't be deepened a second time. The well would need to be redrilled.

Mr. Coulter stated that if a well owner thinks the nitrate level is high that they might want to check the water for nitrates. Eighty pre-cent or more of the water samples go to private laboratories and the county hasn't had any results since 1994, so there isn't a lot of information available on nitrate levels in the area. Mr. Coulter recommends that everyone have their well water tested to make sure it meets standards. There are 127 pollutants that can be tested.

One person in the audience had a VA loan denied due to high nitrates.

Water analysis through the state laboratory is approximately \$175 + \$14 for a bacterial test.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ramona Bouchard,
Secretary/Treasurer