

## **BIG MESA MDWCA FALL 2017 NEWSLETTER**

WOW! It is wonderful to see the lake rise to this high level! It has been a LONG time since the lake has been this full, many Members may never have seen it so full! Hopefully we'll all see it top the spill-way before next summer? Although the high-water level is great to witness, the brown, muddy sediment poses problems for the water system. This dense, chocolate water is difficult to pump to the storage tank because the automatic filter backwash system turns on more frequently. This limits the amount of water that can be processed resulting in a lower water level in the tank than ideal. This is not a critical issue and Members still have sufficient and safe water for use. The water should settle and clear over the winter.

Late this past summer, Big Mesa made some additions to its team. Jeff Mechenbier applied for and received the vacant Board seat. Jeff is a Registered Professional Engineer in NM and a long-time employee of Public Service Company of NM. Currently he oversees the T/D planning functions, and capital expansion. That type of experience is exactly what Big Mesa needs as we implement the \$50,000 Engineering Planning Grant Big Mesa received from the State of New Mexico to identify existing and future system needs.

Big Mesa also hired a new Water Manager, Vincent Ramirez to oversee your Water Distribution System. Vince has a Water IV Certification, the license required by Big Mesa operations. He is a Veteran and well experienced in production, treatment and distribution of water systems through past employment for Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Authority and Route 66 Casino. In addition, our current Water Distribution I employee, Joseph Segura, passed his Water II Certification exam, increasing his professional capabilities. Dana and Lorraine are performing at higher levels with their increased experience while completing numerous office improvements! Please take the time to come in and meet, welcome our hard-working team! Big Mesa is lucky to have them!

Financially, the water rate increase enacted by the Board in the spring, has helped bring Big Mesa to the average MDWCA water rate across the state. This is having

the positive effect of keeping Big Mesa operating above insolvency. Although the cost of water is up, so are the revenues, while the operating expenses are down, which results in a positive increase in Gross and Net Profit! Big Mesa is performing slightly above its current Budget. Perhaps we soon might be able to start increasing amounts in the Reserve Accounts for future water distribution improvements.?

Many other operational items have been addressed in the past several open monthly meetings including: (1) a new littering policy for the transfer station, (2) evaluation of the trash hauling subcontractor, (3) continued system automation work with subcontractor Alpha Southwest, (4) contract finalization with the State's \$50,000 Engineering Grant (through a qualified subcontractor), (5) additions to the Rules & Regulations for a new Complaint Protocol (3 ways only: new Website location, contact Vince the Water Manager or personally attend and present your complaint at a monthly meeting), (6) website upgrades, (7) new implementation of property liens as needed, and (8) billing and banking improvements as well as data collection. To that end, please e-mail your "full time" or "part time" resident status to Dana at [bigmesa@plateautel.net](mailto:bigmesa@plateautel.net) as soon as you can.

All rules, policies and information are posted on Big Mesa website ([bigmesa-nm.com](http://bigmesa-nm.com)). As always Members are encouraged to attend Big Mesa's winter monthly open meetings, the second Saturday of each month (11/11, 12/9, 1/13, 2/10) at the Water Building at 9:00am.

Don't forget we're now on Winter Hours:

Transfer Station; 8:30am to 1:30pm, 7 days a week

Billing Office; 8:30am to 1:30 pm, Mon - Fri

Water Operations; 8:30am to 1:30pm, Mon – Fri

Weekend Emergencies call; Manager Vince 575-403-4805 or Joey 575-403-4525

Sincerely,

Your Water Board, Jeff Strom Treasurer