

Study Session with Mason County Planning and Fire Marshal

January 10, 2022, 10:00 AM

Those present: Dave Matz (RH2), Kevin Odegard and Sean Burns (NW Water Systems), Dan Cossano, Kelly Evans, Ann Moen and Don Bird (Water Committee), Brian Smith, John Ingemi, Connie Wong, and Dean Dyson (Executive Committee) and Roger Milliman (CAM)

The purpose of the study session was to meet with the Fire Marshal, the County, at their request, along with RH2, NW Water, LL Water Committee members and LLCC Executive Committee to explore what LLCC's responsibilities are to provide fire suppression in the past, now and in the future. Also, from our engineers and Water Department what might be needed in our Water System to meet requirements to provide fire suppression to the LL community. Unfortunately, the Fire Marshal and Kell Rowen from the County had to cancel due to the weather and other responsibilities. The study session was held despite these cancellations because other participants were already in route. The main purpose of the study session could not be discussed but some technical issues of the water system were brought up with RH2 and NW Water.

The recent power outage and loss of water pressure was discussed. A sensor on well #3 that tells how much water is in the water tank was damaged due to the freezing weather. A temporary sensor was installed and is operating. On well #6 a Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) failed and is being replaced. Because there was low water pressure, NWS took 2 water samples for testing. (After the meeting, NWS found that one of the samples was negative and that the other showed signs of coliform bacteria, a common, not necessarily dangerous bacteria. More tests were then taken. No e-coli or harmful bacteria were found, therefore, NWS indicated there was no need to issue a boil water notice at this time).

The primary objective of the HOA is to keep LLCC's number one asset, the Water System, operating correctly to reliably provide clean drinking water to the community.

The evaluation of the wells' water flow is being delayed for more details in the contract and the need to get the Water System working correctly after the power outage. This is mainly ordering and installing a new VFD.

Discussion: on how best to communicate with all Lake Limerick residence in the case of an emergency, such as, water contamination, fire, or dam collapse. It was brought up that we already have options in the system: County emergency notification emails, sandwich boards, social media, and door hangers (which is slow). It was discussed that an auto phone system like the schools use for notifications might work here (would investigate to see if and how it could be applied).

Question: What are the options for possibly getting enough water flow to fight fires?

The problem is that 2/3 of the main pipes are 4" which is too small to ever provide enough water flow to make even minimal needed water pressure. A raised water tank would provide a continuous water flow and enough water to fight most fires but would not overcome the 4" pipe problem. The raised water tank would also provide water to the system if there was a power failure in the system at least until the water in the tank ran out.

It was noted that many of the wells are put together with different equipment and different electrical systems. It would be better if we used standardized parts throughout the system. It also would be necessary in the future to have a better and faster communication system between wells, so the pumps are synchronized. Also, it was noted that the two generators we have are old and need to be replaced soon. One is not always turning on when it is tested and needed. A third generator is necessary at well #4.

Dean A Dyson, secretary