

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT TO THE DISTRICT 2003

During the past six months I have had the opportunity to be employed as Water Superintendent for the West Boylston Water District. Previously the Water District had contracted Weston & Sampson Services (Jack Mitchell) as Manager to the District. This report will reflect the some of the issues the District has gone through for the Fiscal Year of 2003.

We are still actively involved with the sewer project during the Final Phase. We maintain at least one of our staff on the project to insure that the installation of the new sewer mains results in a minimum disruption to our customers. Our presence on this project is important in that if a water main is accidentally broken, down time is minimized and we can insure the repair is made properly. Funded by the District, as a part of this project, we were able to replace approximately 120 iron pipe water services.

As with many of the other communities through out New England, this district is faced with an aging infrastructure. Your Board of Commissioners has recognized this and has acquired the services of Tata & Howard Engineers to perform a study of the distribution system. This Distribution Study has been completed along with recommendations for a Capital Improvements program The Capital Improvements Program will serve as a tool to plan and budget for work that will insure that a safe and quantitative drinking water is provided to all of our customers for many years to come. Tata & Howard has also designed our SCADA system (currently under construction) and the Crescent Street water main improvements (completed last fall).

The Oakdale Well was returned to service in June 2003, following the Mercury Spill and shutdown of the Well in November 2002. The Well continues to be closely monitored and the levels of Mercury have been Non Detectable (none found) following the cleanup of the site. However, unrelated to the Mercury, the Well continues to maintain a high level of Manganese. This element that has been occurring naturally within the ground is one of the top priority concerns of the District. The search for a new source in that area as well as the possibility of a treatment plant to remove the Manganese are being looked at by the District and it's Engineer.

The District has had to deal with PCE (tetrachloroethylene) issues following the sampling and detection near the end of Laurel Street. We installed a permanent bleeder in October 2003 to keep the water circulating, and the PCE levels have been drastically reduced. The District and its Engineer are looking into the possible replacement of the water main on Laurel Street to alleviate this issue.

As voted in 2003 a Meter Replacement Program should be starting in 2004. Bid proposals have been requested from various meter distributors and are currently under review. This is a very large project and could take several years to complete. In the end

the District will have a modern metering system, which will also reduce our unaccounted for water and allow us to better comply with the WMA withdrawal permit.

The District has and will continue to provide a consistent high quality service to its members. We maintain three (3) wells, four (4) storage tanks, over 56 miles of pipeline ranging from a ¾ inch service up to a 16” transmission main, over 400 fire hydrants, close to 500 main valves and over 2400 water meters. The daily staff consists of a Superintendent, Foreman, Water Operator, Laborer, Secretary and Assistant.

In conclusion I wish to thank our District Staff of Karen Bernstein, John Flanagan, Mike Coveney, Rob Lopez and Mary Gaffney. They have been a pleasure to work with and I commend them on their experience and professionalism. I also wish to thank The Board of Commissioners both past and present for their guidance. And mostly I want to thank you, the members of the District, for your patience, understanding and support.

Respectfully Submitted,
Davis S. Proctor Jr.

Water Conservation Tips

During droughts or other emergencies, you may be asked to help by conserving water. You'll be surprised at how much you can save without hardship right in your own home. Water conservation is a good way of life. Let's practice it together:

- Showers can take less water than baths, but not if you spend 10 to 20 minutes in the shower. Since most showers pour out between 5 to 10 gallons per minute, that can add up in a hurry. It's more a matter of self-control. A partially filled tub or a shorter shower will no doubt use less water. Time yourself next time, the odds are you really don't need to stand that that long nor do you need the shower running the whole time.
- When shaving and brushing your teeth, try not to leave the water running. Run as much as you need, then turn off the tap until you need some more. It adds up to a whole lot of wasted water.
- A little leak can go a long way. Just a slow drip can waste up to 15 to 20 gallons a day! Worn washers and leaky toilets cause most leaks. Check your faucets and toilets at least once a year.
- Many washing machines use 40 gallons of water for a load whether you have them stuffed full or with only a few items. Save up for a full load and make your water work more efficiently. Or remember to set your machine for a lesser load if it can be adjusted.