

Blue Lake News

January, 2006

A joint publication of BLPOA and LCMUD #1

WATER PLANT STUDY

In December, the MUD Board received the System Assessment and Recommendations prepared by Water Management, Inc., commissioned in September to conduct the study.

A copy of the study is available for perusal by anyone interested in the subject. We invite you to come by the office and read the report. Without reviewing the entire study, we will attempt to recap the main points and the recommendations. As you read this, keep in mind that our water plant is almost 50 years old and is known as a “conventional” plant, the main parts of which are the clarifiers and the filters. Also, be aware that our present plant cannot be enlarged beyond its present footprint due to its location.

The study had the following objectives:

- Determine regulatory compliance
- Assess operating conditions
- List viable treatment options
- Recommendations

Each component (pumps, clarifiers, storage, filters, distribution and pressure) of the plant was assessed to determine its impact on regulatory compliance. The study concluded that all components presently meet TCEQ regulations with the lowest margins found in the clarifiers (283 connections), raw water pumping capacity (283 connections) and distribution pumping capacity (264 connections). Other components each could accommodate over 500 connections. Presently, there are 250 connections on our system.

Acknowledging that the age of the plant creates a challenge for the operators,

attention to detail and knowledgeable operators succeed in maintaining the plant in good working order.

Treatment options were (1) Upgrade the existing clarifiers at a cost of about \$50,000.00 to optimize the treatment process, (2) Install a packaged plant at a cost of \$800,000 to \$1,000,000, (3) Install a membrane plant at a cost that would be about 20% greater than a packaged plant, and (4) Purchase treated water. Option # 1 would delay, for a short time, the inevitability of selecting another option.

The final recommendation was to pursue a treated water purchase agreement. If that is not possible in the near future, Option # 2 was recommended to bridge the time until such agreement could be secured. Options 2 and 3 would be the last resort.

The cover letter commended our utility as being one of the best run systems in the Highland Lakes area. Further, annual surveys by the TCEQ have found our water quality to be excellent.

BLUE LAKE POA PARKS REPORT

As many of you know, **Joe and Martha Smith** will be leaving Blue Lake soon. Joe has been one of our faithful park volunteers who have worked with our lake pump systems in our waterfront parks. We wish to express our sincerest thanks to Joe for all his work in maintaining our lake pumps so that we could all enjoy our beautiful parks. If you have the opportunity to see him before he gets away, please let him know how much you appreciate his work.

We also wish to thank **Jack Valentine**, one of our newest residents at Blue Lake, for volunteering to take over for Joe Smith with the maintenance of our lake pump systems.

Also, a special thanks to **Art Greene**, who has made much needed repairs to the lighting on our entrance sign at the corner of Blue Lake Drive and Bluebonnet Road. Now the signs are properly lighted and easily read during the evening hours.

All of the water systems (lake water and Llano County MUD water) in our parks have been shut down for the winter months. Once non-freezing weather returns, all the water systems will be reactivated.

We have done some tree removal near the boat ramp in Devil's Hollow Park. Our thanks to all the volunteers who assisted in this effort. We are working to get the new sign up at Wenmoh's Park and have plans to clean and paint all the park signs. **Red Stewart** has led the charge on this effort and has done a great job in keeping the parks in excellent condition.

If you would like to help with any of our parks, please let Red or **Paul Castiglione** know; we would be glad for your help. If we have any special workdays, we will post them at the MUD office, at the Blue Lake Golf Club pro shop, and on the Blue Lake Golf Club website (BlueLakeGolf.com).

GOOD BYE FRIENDS

As many of you may have heard, Blue Lake is losing long time residents, **Roger and Jean Stoneburner**. The Stoneburner's are leaving for Bedford, Texas, to be closer to family.

Roger and Jean have been active members of the POA Board and the MUD Board for many years.

The Llano County MUD # 1 and the Blue Lake POA wish to thank the Stoneburner's for all their help in years past and wish them the best for the future.

MUD BOARD

The MUD Board lost one of our directors with the resignation of Bart Patterson on September 30, 2005. **Bart and Judy Patterson** sold their home in Blue Lake and moved to Horseshoe Bay. Bart had the thankless job of overseeing the roadways in Blue Lake. The Llano County MUD # 1 wishes to express out heartfelt thanks to Bart for all his hard work and our best wishes in your new home.

With the resignation of Bart Patterson, **Emory Garlick** was appointed to replace Bart on the MUD Board. Mr. Garlick was sworn in as a new Board member at the MUD Board meeting on October 25th, 2005.

Mr. Garlick comes to us with an engineering background and experience with road issues. We look forward to working with him and learning from his experience.

NEW PROPERTY OWNERS

The MUD and the POA welcomes several new property owners to Blue Lake. Please help them feel welcome:

Joe Jayne at 3802 Packsaddle Drive
Sam & Beverly Goyen at 107 W. Bluebonnet Rd.

Jack & Amanda Robbins at 409 Hillview Dr.

Keith & Joyce Knussmann at 102 So. Blue Ridge Trail

WELCOME TO BLUE LAKE!!!

NEW RESIDENTS

While not new property owners, we have two new residents that need to be mentioned:

Randy & Lisa Remington are the proud parents of **Jacqueline Lee Remington**, born on August 11, 2005.

Brian & DeDee Pickens also have a new arrival. **Weston Wade Pickens** was born on February 24, 2005.

GRINDER PUMP CARE TIP # 3

In our last two issues of the Blue Lake News, we published grinder pump care tips to help ensure the long life of your grinder pump. In this issue, we will continue with:

TIP # 3

The grinder pump has been manufactured to produce an audible alarm signal in the event of a **high water level in the basin**. If your alarm sounds and/or the red light comes on, it may simply be a signal that there is a high water level in the pump tank that could be the result of running, for example, a washing machine and a dishwasher at the same time. When the pump “catches up” with the high water level, the alarm goes off.

When the light or alarm is activated, we ask that you wait a few minutes, with all water sources off, before calling to report a problem.

Remember, our hours of operation are Monday- Friday, 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. If you have a grinder pump problem during working hours, please call the MUD office. If the problem occurs after hours of operation, please consider waiting (with all water sources off) until our office opens instead of calling Lake LBJ MUD. Lake LBJ MUD charges a minimum of four (4) hours for a call-out. If the problem is with your plumbing and NOT the grinder pump, you will be charged for the call-out.

TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES

The 2005-2006 Blue Lake POA telephone directories are in and ready for pick up at the MUD office.

These directories are up-dated and published each year by the POA and are free to our Blue Lake residents. Please stop by the MUD / POA office to pick yours up, if you have not done so.

BLUE LAKE WEBSITE

The MUD invites you to visit our website at bluelaketx.org. We continue to update our website and have a link to the past issues of the Blue Lake News. All fees, permit information, forms and facts and statistics (and even some history about Blue Lake) are available on the website.