

LOST LAKE UTILITY DISTRICT – Water & Sewer Management

Established 2007



March 2022

LLUD – BRINGING YOU UP TO DATE ON YOUR UTILITY DISTRICT NEWS

Letter from the LLUD Chairman

The LLUD has had quite an eventful quarter. We submitted a Project Plan and loan application with the IEPA. If approved, it will fund the last of the mandated watermain replacement. Work on this project could begin later this year. With funds provided by the IEPA through a 1.1% loan that we hope will be partially forgiven. Forgiveness is not guaranteed but after the project is completed, we hope the IEPA will consider it as an option for us.

We have also been concerned with rising ammonia levels at the wastewater treatment plant in the last year. After discussions with several professionals, the manufacturer of our sand filter, and our engineers, we were informed in early December that we needed to replace one of our filters. The IEPA contacted us in mid-December informing us we needed to get into compliance on ammonia levels. At the time the LLUD was formed and purchased our plant in 2007, the IEPA did not monitor ammonia levels. We have negotiated with the IEPA to complete replacement of the bad filter and be in compliance by February of 2023. For many years the plant operated well, meeting the ammonia requirements since those requirements were added to our license. Contractors have been hired, material ordered, and work is scheduled to begin as soon as weather and temperature permits. Our wastewater treatment will be done on the second sand filter during construction of the new sand filter. We will first do a rejuvenation of sand filter 2 to ensure proper wastewater treatment.

During last summer we also had a routine inspection of our water tower to check the condition of our coatings (paint). The coatings protect our water from contaminants and protect the steel inside the water tower from rusting, which extends the life of our tower. The report was returned in November. It is time to paint our tower in the next 1-2 years. This is a big and expensive job. If we delay painting, however, the cost goes up between 25 and 50% within 5 years. That said, we are planning to paint the water tower in 2023. The bid package detailing the project will be completed this spring so work can be scheduled early next year.

While it seems we have a lot on our plate in the coming months, we have also accomplished much in the last few months and years. All of this has been needed in order to keep our community viable. In the years since the LLUD was formed, new IEPA requirements have also come into play putting the burden on our community to meet these requirements. We are pleased to say that with the hard work of our Plant Operator, Chad Judd, and due-diligence by our LLUD Board of Trustees, we are learning about and meeting these new challenges.

Just to remind you of a few of the major projects completed over the last few years here is a small sampling: Brought an additional well online ensuring an uninterrupted water supply in the event of a pump failure; replaced 1.5 miles of undersized watermain; installed baffles in three tanks at the wastewater treatment plant and installed other piping to meet new IEPA requirements; replaced piping in well-house that was over 60 years old; tested, and color coded fire hydrants per national standards and replaced fire hydrants that were not working properly.

The last quarter has been stressful, but I am happy to announce all this work can be accomplished with the new rates instituted for calendar year 2022 and the loans that will be needed to fulfill these obligations. This is an indication of the foresight and planning of the LLUD board in the last 10 years. Thank you to all who have served our community so well in the years since we purchased the utility.

LLUD WELCOMES TWO NEW TRUSTEES



At the February LLUD meeting, we welcomed Hal Warren (pictured above) and Ray Ford as new trustees. We are now pleased to say we have a full board of trustees. Hal and wife, Sheri, moved from Rochelle to Lost Lake about two and a half years ago. Hal said “we were looking for a place to live on the water and found it here

at Lost Lake. We are sure enjoying our view over the lake and watching all the wildlife.” Hal and his wife both originally grew up in Colorado but have migrated to Illinois. Hal has been the Boise Cascade for 25 years with the last 10 years being Branch Manager at the Rochelle location. Sheri is a retired school and sports photographer. They have 3 children and 2 grandchildren who reside in Minnesota and Washington state. In his spare time, Hal enjoys woodworking and home repair. In addition he plays piano and guitar and routinely plays for his church services. Hal stated in applying for a position as a trustee he wished to contribute to the community and learn about the inner workings of our utility.



You might not guess that Ray Ford, (pictured above) likes to fish! Ray, and his wife, Valerie have lived in Lost Lake for 12 years now. They have one daughter and three granddaughters, Ava, Gemma and Althea who live in Byron. You may see Ray walking his two Bernese Mountain dogs from time to time (or they walk Ray!) Ray grew up in Polo so is a Sauk Valley native but over the last 30 years had moved a bit for his job with IDOT. Over the course of his 30-year career with IDOT he spent time originally at the Dixon location, then in Schaumburg for 15 years and the last 10 years were spent at the Dixon office. Ray has now been retired for 6 years and enjoys spending his free time fishing, doing nature photography, and enjoying family and pets. Valerie works from home in her own business called Bookkeeping and Office Solutions. When current trustee, Joe Bajko, mentioned to Ray that we had a trustee position open, Ray said it was time to give back to our community. Ray also said he had an interest in learning how the entire utility works. The LLUD would like to thank these two individuals for stepping up to fill our open positions.

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