

## LBCA WATER RESOURCE COMMITTEE REPORT - November 6, 2015

Members: Matt Griffin, Bob Glasow, Don Iverson (chair)

### Water Resource Committee (WRC) Recommendations

While several improvements have been made to our water system over the years, most major system components remain 40+ years old. The well is barely keeping up with summer water demand, the water tank is leaking, filter system is obsolete, and the water main is experiencing an increased frequency of leaks that require costly repairs. The WRC recommends substantial improvements be done ASAP as one project (for cost efficiency) while taking advantage of very attractive grants and low-interest loans (1.0-1.5%) currently available from the **State Drinking Water Loan Program**. Note that the loan program is competitive and that a project involving only a water main replacement would have a lower chance of receiving a loan. Our odds are improved if our project:

- Reduces the risk of seawater intrusion (which it can with added well)
- Includes green sand filtration improvements (which it can)
- Would be shovel ready when we apply (which it can)

Significant costs are involved. The process should start with preliminary engineering to establish appropriate scope and approximate additional cost (beyond that typically being spent in recent years for system repairs and improvements) to each titleholder. This information should be shared with title holders with voting to determine if we should move forward with the project. For now, LBCA would need to divert some funds currently earmarked for green sand filter improvements to pay for the preliminary engineering. Prior to this preliminary engineering, **our best guess is that the added cost per household will be \$10 to \$20 per month depending on many factors** including whether we want the system to include fire hydrants and deliver higher water flow for firefighting.

### **Recommended timeline:**

- 1) October 4, 2016: Invite King Water, State of Washington DOH, and Carl Garrison to present information to the community during the annual titleholders meeting about the state of the existing water system and potential funding for improvements. (*completed*)
- 2) October-November: Receive feedback from the community regarding the information presented at the above meeting. (*WRC has received no feedback although those present at the meeting seemed generally supportive*)
- 3) November: Have Carl Garrison start work on a Small Water System Management Plan (SWSMP).
- 4) December: Assuming community is supportive of moving forward with an improvement project, have Garrison start work on preliminary engineering and budget estimating related to installation of:
  - New water main sized to handle future fire hydrants (if budget does not allow immediate installation)
  - Second well to supplement the existing well, which provides a backup source as well as increased capacity
  - Reservoir leak repairs
  - Green sand filter and other small improvements at pump house.
  - Option for fire hydrants and fire pump
- 5) January 2016: Pursue a \$25,000 grant to cover engineering costs.
- 6) March: Special town-hall meeting to review preliminary engineering and costs, and discuss options. Discussions should include adding water consumption charges rather than increasing basic annual dues.
- 7) March: Send out mail-in ballots for approval of options.
- 8) Spring: If voters elect to move forward, retain engineering firm to complete the design of improvements.
- 9) Summer: Consider requesting bids from contractors so we are “shovel ready” when we apply for a loan.
- 10) September: Next opportunity to pursue a low-interest loan.
- 11) Winter 2016/17: Begin construction if we are successful in getting a low-interest loan.