OUR MISSION

"To provide water service that is dependable, economical, and meets or exceeds health standards for all cooperative members."

TOPICS INSIDE

BWC OFFICE

LOCATION: 5901 Hillside Rd
MAIL: P.O. Box 164
HOURS: M-T 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
F 8:00 am --2:00 pm
PHONE/FAX
(410) 586-8710 (ph)
(410) 586-1963 (fax)
WEB PAGE: www.beacheswater.com
EMAIL: beacheswater5901@gmail.com
EMERGENCY: (410) 846-1040
DROP BOX: Outside Gate

Board of Directors

Fritz Riedel - President
Frank DiGeorge-Vice President
Tom Forgette - Sec-Treasurer
Dan Crain - Director
Gary Clark - Director
Frank DiGeorge - Director

Contract Management

Dennis DiBello – Business Manager / Superintendent
Cheryl Houchen – Office Manager
Debbie Simmons - Receptionist

Attend a monthly Board of Director's meeting at the office (5901 Hillside Road) generally on the second Thursday of the month.

Call ahead. (410) 586-8710.

I. *President's Corner*

First, I would like to introduce myself as the new President of the water board, after Gary Clarke, a founding board member of the water co-op, begged to be allowed to resign after 17 years as President, and a total 33 years on the board of directors. He has conceded, at least, to stay on the board. His leadership has carried us through numerous crises and improvements. We all owe him a hearty thank you. We also owe thanks to Dennis DiBello, and his office staff and crew, who actually carry out all the work of the co-op.

The state of the Water Co-op is good, despite the wrench the Covid-19 pandemic threw into our operations. We have six water pumping stations and eight wells which provide service to almost 800 homes, and which are, with minor exceptions, in good working order, providing redundancy in the event of a pump or well failure. Our water consistently passes all required testing.

By the time Gov. Hogan's ban on shutting off utility services for lack of payment was rescinded, more than a few customers had substantial back due bills, and thanks to Cheryl Houchen and the rest of the office staff, we have collected most of the money that is due, without having to shut off the water in any occupied homes. I would like to thank you all for being responsive. We understand that the last year has been challenging for many of you. We would like to be able to provide water for free, but alas, in the real world, it takes money to build and maintain the infrastructure, pump the water, and even bill for the water.

As you should know, we have instituted a new billing system, one that is easier for both us and our customers. While credit card payments will get a slight surcharge, bank drafts and checks are free. You can sign up at http://beacheswater.com

As a true co-op, each member owns a piece of the company. Anything that increases our costs increases each member's obligation. Please do not tamper with the lids to meter pits which contain the water meters. This is illegal and may result in your being charged for any damages. And please try not to hit them with lawn mowers, as the antennas which report the water usage can be damaged. Just a reminder, the co-op owns the water pipes up to the meter pit; from the meter pit to the home they are the property and responsibility of the home owner.

Assuming public gatherings will be allowed, there will be an annual meeting of the Beaches Water Company on September 12. Please attend if you can or at least mail in your proxy vote to be eligible for a $100 credit toward your water bill. Thank you!

Gerhardt F. (Fritz) Riedel
President, Beaches Water Cooperative

Service Advisory -- We will be flushing community fire hydrants the week of September 13-18, 2021 starting at 9:00 a.m. This may cause the water to be discolored due to disturbing the sediment and deposits in the pipes. This sediment is naturally occurring minerals in the water. Discolored water poses no health hazard. It is free from harmful bacteria and safe for all household uses, such as showering, cooking, flushing of toilets, etc. You can drink the discolored water, but it may taste different. However, you should **NOT** wash clothes in your washing machine if the water is discolored as clothing may stain. Flush your water lines though an outside hose bib to clear up the discoloration.

Do we add fluoride to the drinking water? - ***No we do not. Although in some areas of the country water systems add fluoride to the water, Beaches Water Co-op is only licensed by the State of Maryland to treat the drinking water for bacteriological concerns. Trace amounts of fluoride naturally occur in the aquifers, but those amounts are not significant to aid in children's dental growth and development. Many doctors/dentist prescribe fluoride supplements or children's vitamins with fluoride.***

Chlorine smell? - ***Water is disinfected to ensure it is safe to drink. Chlorine treatment is the most common and effective disinfectant. At times the treated water may have a chlorine smell. This is the free chlorine residual that we must maintain to ensure the water at your tap is safe to drink. Letting the water stand for a few minutes dissipates the smell.***

II. Water System Operation, Maintenance & Improvements

As I stated in our last newsletter, the operation and maintenance of the Beaches Water Company (BWC) is dependent highly on the infrastructure of the system. The infrastructure consists of the pumps, controls, wells, tanks piping, valves, hydrants, and meters. Most of our active infrastructure is rather new since we have to maintain it to keep operating and it is obvious when there is an issue. That leaves our passive infrastructure which consists mainly of the piping and tanks. With these, we do not know there is a problem, especially with the underground piping, until we have a leak and that leak makes it way to the surface.

Monthly, we track the difference between the water pumped and the water billed to the members. The difference is considered water losses (leaks.) Nationally, the average water loss is 10%. BWC's water losses are generally less than 1% but may increase up to 10% when we have had a major leak. We do appreciate the community members who report leaks to us. We check them out as soon as possible. Minor leaks are put on the plumbers' regular schedule whereas major leaks are scheduled as an emergency. Of course emergencies cost more to repair.

Currently a majority of our maintenance and repair is contracted out so we must manage costs to not exceed our budget. Like everything else repair costs have risen to the point that fixing 4-5 leaks on the same street segment costs as much as replacing the whole line on that street segment.

Consequently we are in the process of devising a replacement strategy to upgrade piping on the worst performing street segments. With our current budget we hope to do 2-3 street segments a year. It will be a continuous ongoing plan that may never end. I estimate we have over 50 streets with many segments that have piping that is 50-60 years old. To do it all in one shot would take more than a million and a half dollars. The "piece-meal" approach allows it to fit our annual budget. In the advent, infrastructure money becomes available to BWC we could accelerate the program.

If you have any questions about the Operation or Maintenance of the system please give us a call.

V/R,

Dennis DiBello,
Business Manager and Superintendent

Superintendent Notes

As noted above we flush our hydrants annually. Part of this effort is to remove sediment that is drawn up from the aquifers and settles out in low flow areas of the water mains. Another part of the reason we do maintenance on the hydrants is to verify that our hydrants operate properly.

In conjunction with the St. Leonard Fire Department, we tested the flow rates for all the hydrants in the last year. Our flow rates exceeded the design minimum by a factor of 2 times in many cases.

This information was reported to the ISO for community fire ratings. Having a fire hydrant system in the community allows home owners to get a lower rate on insurance and saves everyone policy fees.

Schedule of Fees

Monthly Water Rates:

Consumption:	Rate:
0-1000 gal	$32.00
1001-2000 gal	$3.50/thousand
2001-3000 gal	$5.00/thousand
3001-4000 gal	$5.75/thousand
4001-5000 gal	$6.50/thousand
5001-10000 gal	$7.00/thousand
Over 10000 gal	$7.50/thousand

Application/Transfer Fee	$ 40.00
New Service	$5,500.00
Shut-off	
Non-payment	$ 110.00
Customer Request	$ 40.00
Reconnect	$ 40.00
Extended Shut-off	$ 420.00
Meter Reading	$ 50.00
Meter Challenge	$ 100.00
Return Check	$ 25.00
Late Penalty	10% applied 10 days after end of month

III. Financials & Water Rates

There will be no increase in water rates for the fiscal year 2021-2022

Fiscal year 7/1/21– 6/30/22

BWC FY 2021/22 BUDGET	INCOME
Water service	450,000
Office Rent	1,200
Advertising-Quarterly	750
Application & Transfer Fees	6,200
Cash Drawdown	30,000
Total Income	**$488,150**
BWC FY 2021/22 BUDGET	**EXPENSES**
Auditing	11,000
Bad Debt	1,030
Bank Service Charges	6,200
Depreciation Expense	24,500
Professional Memberships	800
Engineering	1,500
Insurance	12,000
Mortgage Pay Down	22,095
Mortgage Interest	7,478
Legal	5,000
Licenses and Permits	600
Office - Other	12,000
Operating Supplies	18,450
Repairs & Maintenance	48,500
Administration	149,200
Operation	127,000
Taxes	50
Utilities	30,000
Water Testing	6,500
Variance	4,247
Total Expense	**$488,150**

BEACHES WATER CO-OP RELEASES NEW ONLINE CUSTOMER WEB PORTAL

Beaches Water Co-op is announcing the release of their new customer portal in a continued effort to provide our customers with modern technology services. Residents *now* have access to manage their accounts 24/7, anytime, anywhere and on any device.

- One-step secure bill payment with "Quick Pay"
- Credit cards, debit cards and ACH Bank Draft Payments
- Sign up for recurring payments
- Use the electronic wallet feature to store payment methods (secured)
- Sign up for paperless services via email
- Manage your account settings

We are excited to debut these new online services that allow our customers to easily manage their business with us when and how they wish. We would like to encourage our customers to use the new electronic services and at the same time support our environment by Going Green. Visit our website @ www.beacheswater.com and click on the **Make a Payment / Customer Portal** link to set-up your account. ***Please make sure to use the updated account number on your recent bill***

IV. 2020 - Annual Drinking Water Quality Consumer Confidence Report

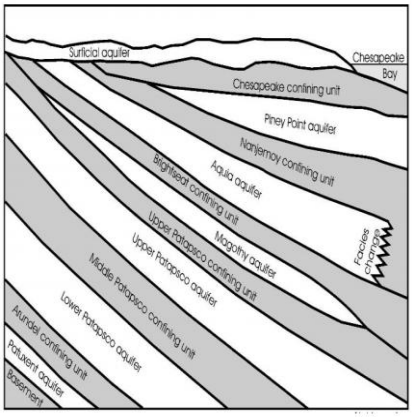
Our drinking water **is safe and meets** all federal and state requirements for community drinking water. In 2020, there were no water quality violations**.**

BEACHES WATER CO-OPERATIVE
MD0040009

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2020

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.

The source of drinking water used by BEACHES WATER CO-OPERATIVE is Ground Water from the Nanjemoy and Aquia confined aquifers.



For more information regarding this report contact:
Name: Dennis DiBello
Phone: 410-586-8710

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Sources of Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPAs Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:
- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at *http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead*.

Source Water Name		Type of Water	Report Status	Location
Gerard (bayfront/bayview) CA029966	CA029966	GW	Y	Long Beach approx. 200 ft W of Main St
Jorgensen 1 (locust 1) CA054043	CA054043	GW	Y	Long Beach approx. 0.5 mi e of Rt 2
Grover CA120490	CA120490	GW	Y	Long Beach approx. 0.5 mi e of Rt 2
Rausch (balsam) CA054331	CA054331	GW	Y	Long Beach approx. 0.5 mi e of Rt 2
Slater 1 (new well) CA920901	CA920901	GW	Y	Near 4 SE of St Leonard approx. 50 ft W of Long Beach Dr & Hill Rd
Slater 2 CA811940	CA811940	GW	Y	Near 1.3 mi SE of St Leonard approx. 200 ft w of Long Beach Rd
Slater 3 CA882256	CA882256	GW	Y	Near 5 mi SE of St Leonard approx. 50 ft S of Long Beach Rd
Bozman 1 CA733266	CA733266	GW	Y	Long Beach approx. 0.5 mi e of Rt 2

A source water assessment was performed by MDE and is available on their website: mde.maryland.gov.

Lead and Copper

Definitions:

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level	90th Percentile	# Sites Over	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	7/18/2019	1.3	1.3	0. 2		ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	7/18/2019	0	15	2.9	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Water Quality Test Results

Definitions: The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

Avg: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.
Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
Level 2 Assessment: A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
Maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
Maximum residual disinfectant level goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
na: not applicable.
mrem: millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
ppb: micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.
ppm: milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.
Treatment Technique or TT: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Disinfectants and Disinfection By- Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	2020	0.6	0.5-0.6	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2020	2	2.4 – 2.4	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2020	6	6.2 – 6.2	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic - While your drinking water meets EPA standards for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPAs standard balances the current understanding of arsenics possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.	2020	6	4 – 7.7	0	10	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
Fluoride	2020	0.3	0.2 - 0.3	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Beta/photon emitters	2020	13.2	11.4-13.2	0	50	pCi/L	N	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2020	0.7	0 – 0.7	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

Summer 2021 Newsletter
&
2020 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

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