BEACHES WATER CO.

NEWSLETTER – SUMMER
June 20, 2025

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
John Collins - Director
Paul Murdoch – Director
Teresa Wheeler – Director

Contract Management

Dennis DiBello – Business Manager
Jim Stone – Superintendent
Cheryl Houchen – Office Manager
Debbie Simmons – Admin Assistant
Michael Clarke – BWC Administration & Water Operator

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*

The state of Beaches Water Co-op is good. We currently have 8 wells at six pump locations that serve our community of almost 800 homes, with only minor interruptions due to repair and maintenance work. Our water continues to be safe and clean, and pass all regulatory standards. For this we thank the Business Manager, Dennis DiBello, the office crew and Jim Stone, the Water Superintendent and his crew of helpers, and the plumbers he contracts. Fiscally, the co-op is in good shape, our revenues continue to meet our expenses, and there will be no rate increase in the upcoming year.

Our physical water system is in good shape overall, but much of it is aging and in need of ongoing repair and maintenance. Our focus in the upcoming year will be to continue to maintain and repair the existing system, in particular, maintenance on our water tanks, which need repair and cleaning and touch ups both internally and externally. We also expect to continue the project to replace all remaining galvanized water lines in the system, as required by EPA in their lead abatement regulations.

There are two recent matters to bring to the co-op's attention. First, after a long consideration of the costs and benefits, the board, with the agreement of the Business Manager and the Water Superintendent, has decided to forgo the loan from MDE to replace all remaining galvanized water lines, while opting to continue the work on the system as planned. This will avoid the commitment to a long-term loan, while allowing us the flexibility to use local, trusted contractors to carry out the work. We estimate 5 years to carry out the project, at a lower cost to the co-op.

Second, the co-op's by-laws require a yearly financial audit, but because of ENRON reforms, the complexity and cost of financial audits has sky rocketed in recent years. Our usual auditor's prices nearly doubled between 2024 and 2025 fiscal years. As a result we are changing auditors, but will still face a stiff increase. We are, therefore, asking members to vote for a change in the bylaws to allow a less expensive financial review by an auditing firm, more akin to the original intent of the bylaws.

Gary Clark having resigned after many years of service, the board of directors currently has six of seven allowed members; myself, Vice President Frank DiGeorge, Secretary/Treasurer Tom Forgette, and members John Collins, Paul Murdoch and Teresa Wheeler. On their behalf I thank Dennis and his crew, Cheryl Houchen and Debbie Simmons, Jim Stone and his crew of helpers, Michael Clarke, as well as the "ladies auxiliary," Kathy Collins, Georgia Riedel, Debbie Berens, and Jean Bozman for their voluntary help with mailings. We also thank our members for their continued support. We encourage anyone interested in becoming a board member to reach out to us.

The next annual meeting of the Co-op is scheduled for 3:00 PM Sept. 14, Sunday, at the Long Beach Civic Association building. We look forward to seeing you there.

Gerhardt F. (Fritz) Riedel
President, Beaches Water Co-operative

Service Advisory -- We will be flushing community fire hydrants the week of September 8-12, 2025 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 bibb 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

Welcome to Summer 2025.

The Operations and Maintenance aspects of the Beaches Water Co-op system are my focus while providing co-op members with safe, clean, and reliable water service year-round. That said, our current goals are the cleaning and inspection of water tanks and replacement of old water piping. To-date we have opened, cleaned and inspected a few of our water tanks since late spring. I am glad to report that the tanks opened to date are in good condition. More tanks will be scheduled in the near term.

As with any utility, system age and wear and tear takes its toll. While our above ground infrastructure is relatively new, certain water mains and associated valves need replacement. Most of this piping is 60-70 years old. That said, this is costly, but work must be done. We are using our capital monies to replace old piping in one or more priority streets per year. In the last four years BWC has replaced portions of or all of water main and service line piping in Douglas St., Floral Ct. and Circle and Long Beach Rd. Lastly, it is expected that the water main piping replacement will take several years.

As an advocate of and in support of saving water, I ask all to conserve water, especially now that summer is upon us. For inside water use, we provide at cost shower heads, shower wands, and faucet aerators designed to be more efficient to aid in conserving water use. For outside water use, consider irrigating your yard before the sun rises to minimize water evaporation. Anything to save water is a good thing and reduces your cost.

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

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Jim Stone,
Superintendent

Water Conservation

Look at your water bill to compare your daily consumption for that monthly cycle to the national daily average:

Example:
NATIONAL DAILY AVG. PER PERSON: 82 GALS.
YOUR DAILY AVG. THIS MONTH: 40.13 GALS

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 periodically test the flow rates at the hydrants. Our flow rates meet or exceed the design and expectation of the size of our system. 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
Effective July 01, 2022

Consumption:	**Rate:**
0-1000 gal	$37.00
1001-2000 gal	$4.00/thousand
2001-3000 gal	$6.50/thousand
3001-4000 gal	$8.25/thousand
4001-5000 gal	$9.75/thousand
5001-10000 gal	$10.75/thousand
Over 10000 gal	$11.25/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	$ 444.00
Meter Reading	$ 50.00
Meter Challenge	$ 100.00
Return Check	$ 25.00

Late Penalty 10% applied 10 days after end of month

VISA MasterCard

III. Financials & Water Rates

Fiscal year 7/1/25 – 6/30/26

BWC FY 2025/2026 BUDGET	**INCOME**
Water service	526,000
Office Rent	1,200
Advertising-Quarterly	1,000
Application & Transfer Fees	8,000
Total Income	**536,200**
BWC FY 2023/24 BUDGET	**EXPENSES**
Auditing	17,000
Bad Debt	500
Bank Service Charges	1,600
Depreciation Expense	46,200
Professional Memberships	800
Engineering	1,500
Insurance	8,000
Mortgage Pay Down	19,000
Mortgage Interest	5,500
Legal	5,000
Licenses and Permits	500
Office - Other	17,000
Operating Supplies	20,000
Repairs & Maintenance	101,000
Administration	255,000
Taxes	100
Utilities	30,000
Water Testing	7,500
Total Expense	**$536,200**

BEACHES WATER CO-OP CUSTOMER WEB PORTAL

BWC customers 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

Visit our website @ www.beacheswater.com and click on the **Make a Payment / Customer Portal** link to set-up your account.

We encourage our customers to review their bill in its entirety – Did you know that the meters are so sensitive that they can detect a possible water leak, a dripping faucet or something that is running continuously? In these events *****Meter Indicates a Possible Leak***** will appear on your bill. We also have Company Notes on your bill with useful tips and information each month.

Please make sure to use your **updated account number** on your check

IV. 2024 - Annual Drinking Water Quality Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

BEACHES WATER CO-OPERATIVE

Public Water System ID: MD0040009

We are pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) for the year, for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024. 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. (Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien).

For more information regarding this report, contact:
Name: James Stone, Superintendent
Phone: 410-586-8710

Sources of Drinking Water

BEACHES WATER CO-OPERATIVE is ground water.
Our water source(s) and source water assessment information are listed below:

Source Name		Type of Water	Report Status	Location
BOZMAN/ HARBOR WELL CA029966	CA733266	ground water		
GROVER WELL CA120490	CA880014	ground water		
JORGENSEN 1 (LOCUST 1) CA054043	CA054043	ground water		
JORGENSEN WELL 7R - CA880014	CA121490	ground water		
RAUSCH (BALSAM) CA054331	CA054331	ground water		
SLATER 1 (NEW WELL) CA920901	CA920901	ground water		
SLATER 2 CA811940	CA811940	ground water		
SLATER 3 CA882256	CA882256	ground 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 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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 stormwater 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. Contaminants may be found in drinking water that may cause taste, color, or odor problems. These types of problems are not necessarily causes for health concerns. For more information on taste, odor, or color of drinking water, please contact the system's business office.

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).

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. Beaches Water Co-op is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Beaches Water Co-op @ 410-586-8710. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

An initial Service Line Inventory was submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment on June 15, 2025. As a result, the Service Line Inventory requirement was fulfilled. The report is available at the office.

Source water assessment has been performed by the Maryland Department of the Environment and is accessible on their website at: https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water_supply/Source_Water_Assessment_Program/Pages/by_county.aspx

In the tables below, you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions:

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

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.

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.

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 Contaminant Level or 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.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or 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.

Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or 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.

Maximum residual disinfectant level or 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.

Treatment Technique or TT: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

Avg: Average - Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

LRAA: Locational Running Annual Average

mrem: millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

ppt: One part per trillion is equivalent to one nanogram (ng/L) per liter. A single drop of food coloring in 18 million gallons of water.

ppb: micrograms per liter (ug/L) or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

ppm: milligrams per liter (mg/L) or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water

picocuries per liter (pCi/L): picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

na: not applicable.

Our water system tested a minimum of 2 sample(s) per month in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. With the microbiological samples collected, the water system collects disinfectant residuals to ensure control of microbial growth.

Disinfectant	Date	Highest RAA	Unit	Range	MRDL	MRDLG	Typical Source
CHLORINE	2024	0.8	ppm	0.3 - 1.1	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes

Regulated Contaminants

In the tables below, we have shown the regulated contaminants that were detected. Chemical Sampling of our drinking water may not be required on an annual basis; therefore, information provided in this table refers back to the latest year of chemical sampling results.

Lead and Copper	Period	90TH Percentile: 90% of your water utility levels were less than	Range of Sampled Results (low - high)	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
Copper	7/12/2022	0. 7	ND (<.05) – 0.7	ppm	1.3	0	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	7/12/2022	2.5	ND (<5) – 2.5	ppb	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Disinfection Byproducts	Sample Point	Period	Highest LRAA	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5)	RESIDENCE BEECH RD	2023 - 2024	0	0 - 0	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM	RESIDENCE BEECH RD	2023 - 2024	3	3.1 - 3.1	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
ARSENIC	3/17/2024	10.9	4.6 - 10.9	ppb	10	0	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
BARIUM	2/20/2023	0.0066	0 - 0.0066	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
CHROMIUM	1/10/2023	3.4	0 - 3.4	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
DIBROMOCHLOROMETHANE	4/23/2024	0.00096	0 - 0.00096	MG/L	0.1	0.06	
FLUORIDE	2/20/2023	0.2	0.2	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
NICKEL	2/20/2023	0.0011	0 - 0.0011	MG/L	0.1	0.1	
TOLUENE	4/23/2024	0.00056	0 - 0.00056	ppm	1	1	Discharge from petroleum factories

Radiological Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
COMBINED RADIUM (-226 & -228)	7/19/2023	0.2	0.2	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS BETA PARTICLE ACTIVITY	4/23/2024	17	10.3 - 17	pCi/L	50	0	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
RADIUM-226	7/19/2023	0.2	0.2	PCI/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits
RADIUM-228	2/27/2024	1.4	0 - 1.4	PCI/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR)	Collection Date of HV	Highest Value (HV)	Range of Sampled Result(s)	Unit
None				

WHAT IS PFAS?

PFAS - short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances - refers to a large group of more than 4,000 human- made chemicals that have been used since the 1940s in a range of products, including stain- and water- resistant fabrics and carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging and fire-fighting foams. These uses of PFAS have led to PFAS entering our environment, where they have been measured by several states in soil, surface water, groundwater, and seafood. Some PFAS can last a long time in the environment and in the human body and can accumulate in the food chain.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) conducted a PFAS monitoring program for Community Water Systems from 2020 to 2022. The results are available on MDE's website: https://mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized regulations for 6 PFAS compounds in drinking water in April 2024. The MCLs for PFOA and PFOS are each 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt). The MCLs for PFNA, PFHxS, and HFPO-DA (GenX chemicals) are each 10 ppt. Additionally, a mixture of two or more of the following chemicals (PFNA, PFHxS, HFPO-DA, and PFBS) will be regulated with a Hazard Index of 1 (unitless) to determine if the combined levels of these PFAS pose a risk and require action.

Additional Required Health Effects Language:

Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's 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.

There are no additional required health effects violation notices.

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&
2024 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)