

THE Pipeline

YOUR CURRENT WATER INFO SOURCE

SPRING/SUMMER 2011 NEWSLETTER

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ACWWA'S WATER ACQUISITION

The Real Story About ACWWA's Water Acquisition "ACWWA FLOW"

You have seen recent stories about ACWWA, and its efforts to ensure long-term water supplies through the "ACWWA FLOW" project. As a responsible water provider, it is prudent to assure that current and future customers will have adequate supplies of potable water. Scary and confusing newspaper headlines have done a disservice to this water utility.

The process of finding durable, renewable water for the district goes back at least three years. The South Metro Water Authority, of which ACWWA is a member, was presented a number of deals, which ACWWA participated in evaluating. Those deals, from "water brokers" and real estate interests, included projects from Lost Creek, Water West, Renaissance, Flaming Gorge, High Plains and Union Park. ACWWA did its homework, and the transaction with United Water and Sanitation District was still the most favorable, because it is largely "turnkey" in acquiring and transferring the actual water being purchased.

The ACWWA deal has all the elements to make it work. Those components are: a sufficient quantity of long-term renewable water, the ability to collect and deliver treated, potable water to ACWWA ready for use, and the ability to negotiate a suitable price.

ACWWA has serious enforcement mechanisms in its contract with United that include dispute resolution, to enable us to force United to perform and deliver.

Water negotiations in Colorado are complicated and protracted. The water itself can be costly. Like any other unique property, there's a willing seller and a willing buyer, and the market price depends on the location, quantity, availability, quality, and legal ownership.

The district is only 40 percent built-out, and there is continuing commercial development in many of the business areas surrounding the airport. It's important to have a durable, permanent, non-interruptible, renewable plentiful water supply. It's a strategy that preserves property values for owners in the district. Twenty years from now, or 40, some of the surrounding water utilities will be at full capacity, and still searching for water options. ACWWA won't be in that situation, because of the decisions made to support "ACWWA FLOW."



ACWWA FLOW PROJECT UPDATE

ACWWA continues to implement its renewable water project, ACWWA Flow, which will deliver renewable water to the ACWWA service area starting in 2012. This project is a partnership with two other water districts, East Cherry Creek Valley Water and Sanitation District (ECCV) and United Water and Sanitation District (UWSD). There are many benefits to this partnership; one important benefit being the ability to spread the expense of this project over all three entities.

For example, the cost of the water rights adjudication process can be shared. This process takes the water rights that were acquired by ACWWA and administers them through the water court system to allow their use in the ACWWA service area. The adjudication process can take three to five years to finalize in the water court system and requires substantial legal and engineering effort during this time. However, since ECCV and UWSD also have a need to adjudicate water rights for the project, the three entities have been able to have a single team lead all adjudication efforts for the project, offering a tremendous cost savings and increasing the efficiency of the process. ACWWA began the adjudication of its water rights in 2009 and is anticipating, by the end of the year, to have approximately 50 percent of the water rights in the court system for processing. With the current schedule, renewable water will be available to ACWWA customers as early as 2012.

Another critical piece of the ACWWA Flow Project is Chambers Reservoir, which is progressing quickly. This is a 1,400 acre-foot reservoir being constructed on the southwest corner of E-470 and Chambers Road. Construction began earlier this year and the earth work is anticipated to be completed later in the year. This project will allow ACWWA to use its water supply more efficiently by storing water in the winter months for use in the summer months.

For more information on the ACWWA Flow project, please visit the ACWWA website at www.arapahoewater.org and click on the "ACWWA Flow Project" bar.

COLORADO MEDICATION TAKE-BACK PILOT PROGRAM

The Colorado Medication Take-Back Pilot Program is a secure, convenient, and environmentally sound option for the disposal of unused and unwanted household medications. The program's collection boxes can be found in 11 convenient locations along the Front Range and in Summit County.

The two closest locations are: King Soopers, 4271 South Buckley Road, Aurora, and Tri-County Health Department, 4857 South Broadway, Englewood.

The goal of the pilot program is to have individuals remove over-the-counter or prescription medications from the home when they are no longer needed. Medication disposal should be done in a manner that minimizes the chances of misuse and also protects the environment. Flushing medications down the toilet or throwing them in the trash can cause pollution of lakes, streams, and water supplies.

For more information on this program, please contact the Colorado Department of Health and Environment at 303-692-2903 or email cdphe.hmmedtakeback@state.co.us.



ACWWA'S WATER CONSERVATION PLAN

In 2006, ACWWA developed a Water Conservation Plan approved by the Colorado Water Conservation Board. Only about 25 percent of the water providers in Colorado have an approved plan with the State.

A 2010 Water Conservation Program developed by the Authority has helped put many of the plan components into action. Important program components include a rebate program and water conservation tools to help reduce the service area's reliance on overall water usage.

ACWWA's REBATE PROGRAM

- **High-efficiency Clothes Washer** - By purchasing a qualified high-efficiency clothes washer, you may be eligible to receive a \$100 rebate. High-efficiency clothes washers conserve an estimated 18 to 25 gallons of water per load or about 6,000 gallons of water per year, which translates to dollars saved.
- **Rain Sensor** - ACWWA's rebate program can also help you save up to 50 percent on a rain sensor or a max of \$50 on the purchase of a qualified rain sensor.

In addition, Leak Detection Dye Tablets are free and available to all ACWWA customers. Using one of these tablets is one of the easiest water conservation measures you can take to detect a leak.

To learn more about ACWWA's rebate program, please go to the Authority's website (www.arapahoewater.org) and click on the "Water Conservation" bar.

CONSERVATION TIPS

- Use water friendly landscaping.
- Do not cut your grass too short. Longer grass helps to retain moisture.
- Water before 10:00 a.m. and after 6:00 p.m.



QUESTIONS REGARDING MY WATER BILL

1) What do the abbreviations on my bill mean?

FL = Fireline Monthly Fee
SX = Sewer Monthly Service Fee
WX = Water Monthly Service Fee
WI = Monthly Water System Investment Fee
WA = Water Meter Consumption
SW = Sewer Meter Consumption
IR = Irrigation Meter Consumption



2) Can I set up automatic monthly payments on my account?

Yes, ACWWA does offer monthly automatic debit or Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) service for commercial and residential customers.

3) Is there a fee associated with Electronic Funds Transfer?

No, the service is free to all customers.

4) How do I start Electronic Funds Transfer?

Go to www.arapahoewater.org, click the Customer Service bar, download the EFT form, and simply follow the instructions.

WATER FACTS

Did you know...

- Less than 2% of the Earth's water supply is fresh water.
- Of all the Earth's water, 97% is salt water found in oceans and seas.
- Humans cannot drink salt water.
- Only 1% of the water on Earth is available for drinking water.
- A person can live without food for a one month, but can only live without water for approximately a week.
- The average American uses 176 gallons of water a day while the average family in Africa uses 5 gallons of water each day.

