

# Water Matters

**Grand Isle Consolidated Water District**

**First Quarter 2016**

## **Conserving Water** *The Whys and Hows*

We live on an island, surrounded by fresh water, **So Why Conserve?** Turning lake water into potable drinking water is an expensive proposition when you consider the State and EPA require treatment and testing daily, weekly,

new GAC system installed in July of 2015. Planning for future expansion and capital expenditures is prudent, and so is water conservation! Conserving water reduces the volume of water the plant must process and thus lowers

*Conserving water reduces the volume of water the plant must process and thus lowers the overall operating and maintenance costs, along with your bill!*

monthly, quarterly and annually, along with maintenance of an aging plant with 26 miles of pipeline. Logistics made it an expensive system to install 20 years ago and members now are faced with updating and maintaining it while still paying for the initial installation.

Although new members joining at a steady rate bring some relief from debt charges, each contributes to increasing demands on the system. This fall the Board will undertake a study to assess what increased capacity has been afforded us by the

the overall operating and maintenance costs, along with your bill!

## **How do I conserve?**

There are many opportunities every day to cut your overall consumption. Keep in mind that June–September are peak demand months and conservation is

*A slow running toilet wastes 2,000 gal/day of treated, potable water!*

particularly important then. Make a habit of thinking about what you are doing and how you could modify the process to use less water. (over)

[www.grandislevt.org](http://www.grandislevt.org)

## **Staying Informed** *with VT-Alert*

If the District ever has to issue a boil water notice or other water restrictions, we will notify you through the VT-Alert system, but we need your email address and cell phone numbers first. Please fill out the enclosed form and send it to us when you pay this quarter's bill. We always take all of our members' information seriously and never share any of your personal information with anyone.

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VT-Alert is free, secure and reliable. Over 80 Vermont agencies have signed up in the two years Vermont has offered this notification program. You will receive only messages related to GICWD water emergencies unless you go to the VT-Alert website and sign up yourself for notifications from other Vermont groups. We encourage you to visit [vtalert.gov](http://vtalert.gov) for more information and to sign up for additional notifications.

## **(Conserving Water continued)**

Here are some ways you can conserve:

- 💧 Shut the water off while brushing or flossing your teeth, washing your car, hand washing pots & pans and while lathering up in the shower (or take shorter showers).
- 💧 Install low flow shower heads and toilets.
- 💧 Check often for slight leaks in your toilet flushing system.
- 💧 Check and fix dripping faucets, including outside ones.
- 💧 Be sure to fill the dishwasher and washing machine to full capacity before using.
- 💧 Limit outside watering, and only water in the early morning or evening. Use soaker hoses when possible and hand water with the hose because sprinklers are *much* less efficient.
- 💧 Keep a pitcher of water in the fridge so you don't have to run the water to get a cold drink.

Take the time to share these money and resource saving measures with your family and encourage good conservation practices in your children. The Board thanks you and we will remain dedicated to keeping expenses down while still providing some of the best water available anywhere!

## **Plant Operations**

### **The New GAC Filters**

The new carbon filters have been on line now for seven months and they are doing exactly what they were designed to do. That is, they are filtering out more of the organic material in the water than the original filters did. They provide us with water that is cleaner and tastes better, and they allow us to inject only a fraction of the chlorine that we used to and still meet all the State standards. While the original filters are still used and do the bulk of the filtering, just as they were designed to do, new standards require more

filtering of the water than they can provide. The carbon filters provide this additional step. The Board is pleased with the results and is confident that the water plant will meet our needs for many years to come.

### **Operating Expenses**

Day-to-day expenses are covered in two ways. An annual budget is developed in December to plan the coming year's expenses. Once completed, the rates for the coming year are set to cover the operating expenses. The base rate

covers 50% of the operating costs and the estimated usage and usage rate cover the other 50% of the operating expenses. The debt service covers the debt payments for the year.

Many considerations go into the budget planning, such as contributing to a capital plan, estimating usage and associated production costs, carbon replacement costs, ongoing maintenance of the aging system and general operating costs such as electricity and propane. All rates are adjusted annually.

## **Member Resources**

Our website is kept up to date monthly and is a great resource for members! We list the date for the next meeting and the agenda and previous meeting minutes. All Commissioners are listed with phone numbers and email. The District's Ordinance and By-laws are downloadable as well as the New Connection Agreement application. System updates and announcements are posted and there are instructions on who to contact if you have a water emergency. **Visit us often at [grandislevt.org](http://grandislevt.org). Our page is listed under "Departments."**