



UP THE CREEK
November 1, 2012

A Matter of Taste

As you are all aware, apart from a few lucky souls who lack a sense of smell, we are finally getting past the algae season, meaning that our lives are gradually returning to what we were accustomed – a good, refreshing drink straight from the tap, no more fishy laundry, and a shower that leaves you stinking less than when you stepped in. It has been a remarkable experience, this episode of taste and odor in our water. It was more ferocious and more persistent than we had hoped or expected. But the silver lining has been provided by you our customers, who have borne this insult with good humor and patience.

The Board of Directors and Management appreciate this tolerant attitude. However, we realize that we must seek ways to prevent such episodes from becoming common. Since we cannot change Mother Nature, there are really only two directions to go – develop an additional water source, or install additional treatment processes. If you want to be part of the discussion, see the third section of this letter, below.

A Change of Season

During the winter months, it is not cost effective for USCDWUA to read your meters. In many areas of our system, the meters accumulate feet of snow (we hope) over them. That snow is best left in place, as it provides good insulation against those sub-zero nights that are likely to be ahead of us. We urge all of you to make sure the inner and outer lids are in place on your meter pits now.

We also urge all of you who plan to be elsewhere this winter to give plenty of thought to the integrity of your home's plumbing while you are gone. A frozen pipe inside the structure will often split open due to the expansion of the ice. Eventually the ice will thaw, and if the water supply was left on, the house will be devastated as thoroughly as if a river ran through it. Our advice is to have your house winterized, which means turn the supply off at the water meter, blow all water out of the pipes, and put antifreeze in all drain traps. If you are not equipped to do this, as most of us are not, hire a plumber. No other form of protection, whether heat tape, furnace left on, etc. is as reliable. At the very least, turn the water off. It may not prevent a split pipe, but will stop the river.

The Meetin'

November 30 is the end of our fiscal year. Shortly after that, we have our annual Membership Meeting. This year it will be December 11. You will receive written notice of the meeting later this month, along with a proxy card. The card is for you to appoint another person – a proxy – to represent you at the meeting if you cannot attend. It is quite important for you to attend, or appoint a proxy, because there is a minimum attendance, a quorum, that will allow the meeting to proceed. Please watch for this notice, which you should receive around mid-November.

At this meeting you will have a chance to learn about and influence the operation of your association. You will elect board members. You will approve or reject a proposed budget for the coming year. And you will hear a detailed explanation of how your money was used this past year.

And, speaking of money, let's please get those past due accounts brought up to date. When our books undergo a CPA review each year, we are asked to provide a list of delinquent accounts, with names and addresses. We would prefer that your name not be on that list, and presumably you would too.