

During the summer months, it easy to be shocked by the size of your water bill and not so easy to understand what's going on inside.

Instead of nerding out on details, let's look at the big picture: small water systems like ours have several costs that big systems can spread out over more users. Sure, the water itself is free...but regulations require us to test it with certified labs all the time, and this month's testing was over \$2200. We're just completing a required audit that'll be at least \$3000. Just the engineering for our Tank #2 project is currently running \$11K a month. You get the idea.

The water company makes no profit, and nobody in the water company gets paid a dime. The only way to lower PLMWC costs is by (1) delivering less water, or (2) deferring maintenance.

Small water systems all over the county have fees similar to ours -- in fact, one has a "base fee" that's double ours!

If you really want to be bored, call me up and I can walk you through the financial details. Heck, if you really *really* want to be bored, you should run for the water board seat that'll be opening up next April. Seriously, consider it.

Some customers have asked for a monthly water bill, instead of quarterly. This *could* be done, but the only way it would work is to have everyone invoiced monthly. This would drive up our costs significantly...and your total bill would have to go up accordingly. So at the most recent PLMWC board meeting (minutes [here](#)), this proposal was voted down.

However, we have decided to offer a new service *only for those who request it in writing*. We can read your meter monthly, and send you a quick summary of your usage. The fee for this service would be \$40/quarter, and can only be subscribed to on a semi-annual basis (e.g., May thru October, or year-round). This could be useful for part-time owners who wouldn't otherwise know about leaks for months. In comparison to calling a plumber, this is a deal. Of course, you can read the meter monthly yourself for free (directions [here](#)) -- or you might be able to find a neighborhood kid willing to undercut our fee.

Everyone would like to see a lower water bill -- and the way to get that is to monitor your usage and find leaks before they get you!

David Taber