

MINUTES OF THE PLWC BOARD MEETING (amended 22 August)
August 13th, 2022 at 12:00 PM PDT

PLMWC Board Members: D. Taber - President; B. Thomas - Treasurer; E. Acosta –Secretary
PLMWC customers: L. Tolbert, J. Tolbert, G. Slippy, two others

- Due to the threat of fines by the state and a declining level of usage compliance, the board voted unanimously to put in the following stages of penalties into effect starting September 1:
 - We measure each household every two weeks, on the 1st and 15th of the month. We do this to catch leaks and problems before they become big problems.
 - The state measures the water company every month. If we as a system are over our ration, we can be subject to fines of \$1250/day. This seems unlikely, but it could happen.
 - For those households that are habitually compliant, there will be no fines or penalties of any kind.
 - For those that are “just a little overusing,” we won’t take any action (we reserve the right to change this if the state gets nasty).
 - For those who overuse by more than 50% (i.e., their usage is over 75 g/p/d):
 - The first instance will get a warning letter.
 - The board will be sympathetic and reasonable if there’s a leak or other extenuating circumstances:
 - a) If there’s a leak that the customer can (1) quantify and (2) show has been corrected, the amount of that leak will be deducted from their usage during the relevant period.
 - b) If the customer is over the line but is out of town or cannot get a plumber to diagnose/correct the situation, the board will delay issuance of subsequent notices/penalties for that interval.
 - c) If the customer has horses on their premises, an allowance of 7.5 gallons/day/horse will be allotted.
 - d) However...
 - Upon the second instance in a row the household will be required to install a Flume electronic meter reading system at their expense. If the household already has a Flume or the device won’t work on their meter, the household will be invoiced \$100 as a fine.
 - The third instance in a row will trigger the household being put on a flow restrictor, which is annoying and costs the household \$175. If the home was built with fire-suppression sprinklers and does not have a booster pump, they will be exempted from the flow restrictor but will still be invoiced \$175 as a fine.
 - In addition, in the unlikely event that the state fines the water system for over-usage, **those who have been over-users during the fine period will split the fine on a pro-rata basis.** This means that people who don’t overuse don’t pay a penny, but the more a household over-uses, the greater the proportion of the fine they would pay.
- To understand how the state is managing the drought, check out these resources:
 - <https://www.sonomawater.org/drought>
 - <https://www.sonomawater.org/current-water-supply-levels>

- Water Supply report
 - Lake Mendocino is in better shape than last year thanks to the atmospheric river we had in the fall.
 - But water conservation will continue until at least the end of the year. It's still 50 gallons/day/person.
The Potter Valley Project that feeds Lake Mendocino is being abandoned by PG&E, leaving nothing but questions about long-term water supply. Some clarity may emerge next year. In the coming weeks, Dave will send out an email about this and the action you need to take.

- Financial Report
 - Financial review of last fiscal year completed and published on PLMWC website.
 - No water rate increase or assessments for this fiscal year
 - We are deferring maintenance on some items with a long life span. 5 or 10 years from now, we'll have to replace some system elements...but that expense is for then.
 - We are running a deficit due to less revenue ... the downside of the positive of conserving water!
 - Pay you water bill on time; your payment is how we generate operating funds