

Dennis Water District

Board of Water Commissioners

Paul F. Prue, *Chair*
Charles F. Crowell, *Vice Chair*
Peter L. McDowell

Main-Line News

www.denniswater.org

Appointed by Water Commissioners

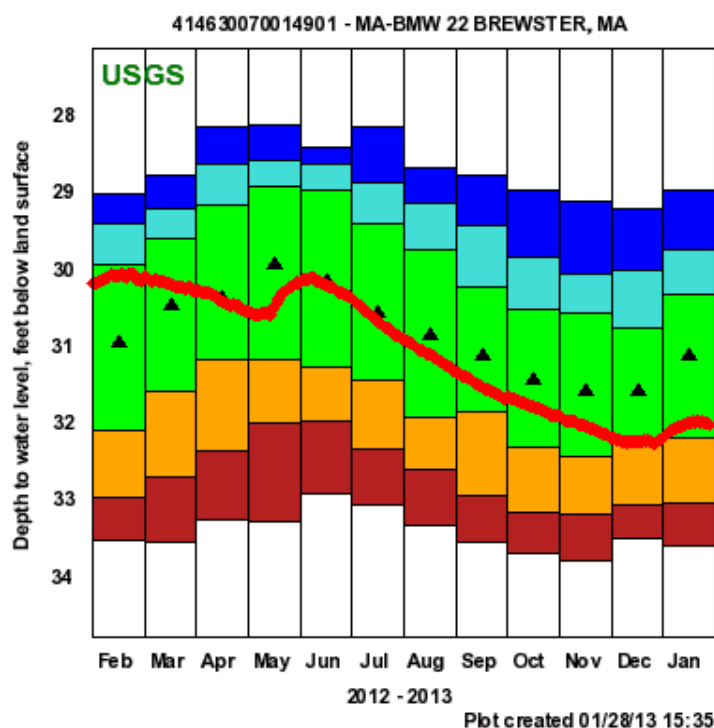
David Larkowski, *Superintendent*
Sheryl A. McMahon, *Clerk & Treasurer*
James Ritchie, *Asst. Superintendent*

Volume 20, No. 1

February 2013

Ground Water Levels Recover Slowly

Massachusetts is a relatively water rich state with regular precipitation and stable surface water and groundwater supplies. There are times when short and longer term drought conditions can occur. In support of water management efforts, the District has a Drought Management Plan (Plan) which is a tool used to recognize when drought conditions occur and lays out steps to help manage these low conditions.



In 2012, rainfall for the Cape was 7" below average. Our Plan monitors rainfall and groundwater levels as illustrated in the diagram above. The Board of Water Commissioners changed the groundwater status from *Normal* to *Advisory* last summer. The *Advisory* status asks that customers voluntarily adjust their outdoor watering habits in response to falling groundwater levels. Although, outdoor activities are dramatically reduced in winter, the District has continued with the *Advisory* status.

Conditions continue to be monitored closely. Precipitation over the winter has been insufficient to significantly rebound groundwater levels which normally occurs this time of year. Keeping our customers up to date is an essential part of what we do. As we continue to observe and evaluate this slow recovery, it is likely that the spring and summer seasons will begin with an *Advisory* or *Voluntary* use restriction. If this happens, it is likely that a *Mandatory* restriction could follow. This will affect you!

District Receives Top Honors

The Dennis Water District was named a 2012 *Utility of the Year* in the medium-size systems' category in September by the New England Water Works Association (NEWWA), the region's largest and oldest not-for-profit organization of water works professionals.

The award recognizes a utility that has made significant improvements to its water system infrastructure, customer service, staff training, and operations to further protect the safety of its water supplies and public health of its consumers.

Water Commissioners Paul F. Prue, Charles F. Crowell and Peter L. McDowell were in attendance when the award was presented to David Larkowski, Superintendent at the annual conference of the New England Water Works Association. "Over the years, the district has utilized its own staff and equipment to construct a number of extensive water system improvement projects," said Raymond J. Raposa, NEWWA Executive Director. "This self-performing approach has fastened among the staff a sense of achievement, teamwork, pride in workmanship, and commitment to the district's water system and the profession as a whole."

In November, the Massachusetts Water Works Association awarded the Annual 2012 *Water Works Pride Award* to the Old Bass River Tank Maintenance Crew of the Dennis Water District. This award recognizes water works personnel that gave that extra measure to make their department better. David Larkowski, James Ritchie, Robert Barboza, David Griffin and Jonathan Moore were all recognized for their work on the tank maintenance project. Although his crew was recognized for their exemplary work, Superintendent Larkowski acknowledged that, "Whenever there is a team working on a special project, it would not be possible to accomplish this work and maintain all of our other District responsibilities, if it were not for the dedication and teamwork of ALL of the District staff for they are the ones that make up the difference enabling others to concentrate on special projects." These special projects have saved the District rate-payers hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years.

PAY ON-LINE SERVICE

For several years the District has provided a link on its website enabling customers to pay on-line. Effective January 1, 2013, Unipay began assessing a 25¢ per transaction fee. It is still less expensive than buying a stamp and crediting your payment to your account is generally done on the next business day.

INSTALLATION OF TRANSMISSION MAIN BEGINS

In the fall, a new 12" water main was installed on Depot Street in Dennisport and put into service. This project is Phase I of a comprehensive plan to more effectively move water from source wells into Dennisport.

The nearly 5,000' of main was put down with all District personnel. Every effort was made to create as little inconvenience as possible to area residents and those needing access to and from Dennisport. Daily detours and road closures were common yet unavoidable. The management and crew extend their appreciation for those who exhibited patience and understanding while the construction took place. Final repairs to the road surface will be completed this spring.

The project goal is to link up the new main with another transmission main from the Mid-Cape Highway area to better service Dennisport. Progress of the second and third phases of the project are predicated on obtaining easements for laying the transmission main. The optimum schedule would see the second phase, from Eagle Pond to Great Western Road, accomplished late 2013.



Due to the location of other utilities, it was necessary to place most of the new main within the existing roadway. A temporary patch was put down until the disturbed areas settle, then final road repairs will be made this Spring.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 23-Annual District Meeting -7:00 PM- Wixon School
May 14 -Annual Town and District Elections
June 2-Tentative - Household Hazardous Waste Collection
Tony Kent Arena - 9 am to 1 pm

Reminder about Frozen Pipes

During the recent extended power outage due to the blizzard, there was an increase in the number of reports of frozen pipes and the considerable property damage they cause. To prevent frozen pipes in the short-term, run a couple of faucets. Moving water does not freeze easily. Run a small steady stream of hot and cold water. Using water this way will only add up to a few dollars per day. A far cheaper bill than the damage caused by frozen pipes.

PICTURES SAY IT BEST

In the fall of 2012, the District completed comprehensive cleaning and pump repairs on Wells 8, 11, 14, 15 and the Main Station. Wells 8, 11, 14 and 15 were all cleaned to improve their pumping capacity which had been declining slowly over the last few years. Annual pumping tests are done on all wells to ensure that they are pumping efficiently and effectively and to establish baselines for comparisons. Iron and manganese, which are common elements occurring naturally in the aquifer, clog the well screens over time, decreasing output.



Submerged cameras take before and after pictures for comparison. Routine cleanings improve motor efficiency and increase production.

All of the wells had either pump replacements or repairs done. The Main Station, where there are actually five consecutive wells, received new pumps, motors and control valves as part of its maintenance and a new, more efficient variable frequency drive unit (VDF) was installed at Well 14. A VDF is a type of adjustable speed drive used in pumping systems to control motor speed and torque by varying motor input frequency and voltage. VDFs are more energy efficient and decrease wear on pump motors. Most wells now have VDFs installed.

A NOTE ABOUT WATER USAGE

The water bill included with this newsletter covers the water usage from July through December 2012. For comparison purposes, the usage for the previous reading billing cycle and for the same cycle one year ago is shown in a box directly below the total.

The pre-billing consumption reports indicate that District customers used approximately 94 million gallons more during this billing cycle than they did for the same cycle in 2011. A breakdown of the comparative usage is below.

July - Dec 2012	No of Customers	Total Gallons Used
No Usage	517	0
1st 50,000	9,384	174,930,000
2nd 50,000	2,710	196,436,000
101,000 +	1,780	330,679,000
Total Gallons Billed:		702,045,000
July - Dec 2011	No of Customers	Total Gallons Used
No Usage	450	0
1st 50,000	10,100	180,826,000
2nd 50,000	2,431	173,262,000
101,000 +	1,334	253,613,000
Total Gallons Billed:		607,701,000