

SCOOP OF MUD

January 2022



The “Scoop of MUD” from your Point Aquarius Municipal Utility District provides helpful information to our neighbors. Let your Directors know if there are items you would like to read about.

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

The following are key improvements made to the MUD Infrastructure during CY2021:

1. In May 2021, the District completed the Waterline Replacement – Phase 4 project. The replacement of 2,500 linear feet of 4”, 6”, and 8” waterline in Section 1 of Point Aquarius Subdivision was made at a cost of \$220,000.
2. In July 2021, the District completed the Rehabilitation of Sanitary Sewer – Phase 6 & 7 project. The rehabilitation of 7,600 linear feet of 8” and 10” sanitary sewer lines and various manholes in Section 1 of Point Aquarius Subdivision was made at a cost of \$411,000.
3. The District purchased and completed installation of backup generators for all Lift Stations in order to increase redundancy and help keep the system operating during electrical blackouts.

WATER/SEWAGE RATE REVISIONS

The Board elected to maintain the existing base water usage rate, but increased the incremental rate for heavier water users from \$1.00 per 1,000 gallons to \$1.25 for users of 5,001 to 10,000 gallons. The Board also increased the residential sewer rate from a flat fee of \$25 per month to \$29 per month.

TAX RATES

The Board has continued efforts to reduce the tax impacts to property owners in the District. The Board took action in the September 2021 meeting to lower the tax rate from \$.47 to \$.43 thereby saving a property owner \$40 per \$100,000 assessed value. **The tax rate has dropped every year from 2013 to present as shown below:**

2013	\$0.7032	2018	\$0.52
2014	\$0.6631	2019	\$0.50
2015	\$0.600	2020	\$0.47
2016	\$0.58	2021	\$0.43
2017	\$0.56		

As a reminder, the MUD also refinanced our outstanding bonds earlier this year resulting in a savings of over \$1.3 million in debt service.

WHO'S ON THE MUD BOARD?

Roland Morgan, President
rolandemorgan@gmail.com

Dennis Duckett, Vice President
ddcadfael@aol.com

Frank Lorch, Director
florch809@aol.com

Frank Wengler, Secretary
frwtex@comcast.net

Point Aquarius MUD Board Member Liz Potts announced at the November 2021 Board meeting her intention to resign effective December 21, 2021. Liz was elected in the November 2020 General Election with her term to expire in November 2024.

Thanks, Liz, for all your hard work during the past year and best of luck!

The remaining Board Members must appoint her successor and plan to do so during the January 2022 Board Meeting.

MEET MIKE PAWALOWSKI, PRESIDENT AND OWNER OF C&R

C&R is the contracted operator for the Point Aquarius MUD water and water treatment system. Mike and his team are available to answer your questions at 936-856-4199. Mike offered the following insight in a recent conversation:

What do you see as the main differences in responsibility of your company vs. the Point Aquarius Municipal District?

The Point Aquarius Municipal Utility District (MUD) is the organization responsible for your water and sewer systems as well as the storm sewer system. The MUD is a political subdivision of the State of Texas and is governed by an elected five-member Board of Directors. C&R is the operator of the system. We have a contract with the MUD to help ensure the water and sanitary system is working efficiently and consistently. C&R is your first call if you suspect there is a water supply issue.

What keeps you up at night worrying about related to the PA MUD System?

The good news is that you have plenty of capacity in your water and wastewater treatment facilities. I do worry a little, however, about the redundancy in the water system. The system has over a thousand connections with only one single water treatment source. I would love to see a second plant site in time, which would make the system extremely strong with the added redundancy. Most water districts of your size have a second, albeit smaller, system in an alternate location to provide some redundancy.

The District is doing a good job of incrementally replacing the aged sewer main line and water main line infrastructure.

Tell us a little about your key employees that keep our system running?

Tony Inguanzo is a jack of all trades, capable of handling several different job tasks and is an



Key C&R Team Members Supporting Point Aquarius MUD (L to R): Tony Inguanzo, Theo Whiteside, and Mike Pawalowski

incredible equipment operator. He's a great leader and keeps everyone in line on the maintenance side. He has been with us for 15 + years.

Theo Whiteside is the Chief Operator for Point Aquarius MUD and has a Class B Wastewater License. He came from being the supervisor at the City of Huntsville WWTP and has also been with us for 15 + years.

What is the best way for a resident/user to pay their bill?

The monthly bills are compiled and ready for distribution/ mailing between the 27th and the 31st of each month. You can find out how much you owe each month by one of the three following methods:

1. Get your bill in the US Mail
2. Sign up for PAYCLIX at WWW.PAYCLIX.COM/POINTAQUARIUS. It is free to sign up. Setting up a Payclix account is very simple. All you need is your account number and current balance due. You will get an email every time your bill has been tabulated and ready for viewing. There is NO cost to review your bill.

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This option helps alleviate any delays in US Mail delivery or in case you are away from your residence for an extended time.

3. Call us, your Operator, C&R at **936-856-4199**.

Please take advantage of the following options to pay your MUD bill:

1. Check or money order can be mailed to P.O. Box 893, Willis, TX 77378
2. Check or money order can be dropped in the drop box at our office at 114 South Danville, Willis, TX 77378
3. Use the PAYCLIX account to pay with credit, debit or Automated Clearing House (ACH). Please note that in order to help maintain competitive rates and tax amounts, there are costs associated with paying your bill via PAYCLIX:
 - Credit - 3% of payment amount plus \$0.79
 - Debit - 2% of payment amount plus \$0.79
 - ACH - \$0.79

Payments are ALWAYS due on the 15th. Late notices are mailed on the 16th and the last day to pay is the 25th. Service disconnects, if warranted, are completed on the 26th. This is in accordance with TCEQ and PUC rules and regulations.

How were you able to keep our water going during the winter 2021 freeze without having a boil notice like other cities/MUDs had to deal with?

We are fortunate to have most of our team live in Willis so we are able to react to emergencies in a very timely manner in which we had to during the freeze. The system was in distress during the freeze primarily due to numerous customer related water breaks in their homes. I feel that if we were unable to respond as quickly as we were able to, we would have had to boil water just the same as most others.

We kept the water going without the dreaded boil notice, but we also had to work around the clock to keep the sanitary systems up and running with portable generators. Keeping them fueled up throughout was a key element of our success.

What are some common reasons that a resident's water may be discolored? What should they do?

The most common reasons would be in this order: Main line/service line breaks, flushing, and filtration systems. Customers should always contact us by calling the office so that we can investigate and make sure that it is not a district related issue. Mineral buildup in your water heater can also cause some discoloration and may require drainage of that sediment.

WHAT'S THE MUD?

The Point Aquarius Municipal Utility District (MUD) is the organization responsible for your neighborhood water and sanitary sewer systems as well as the stormwater collection system. The MUD is a political subdivision of the State of Texas and is governed by an elected five-member Board of Directors.

Direct contact with one of the Directors can often lead to more responsive and helpful assistance. The section on Page One lists your neighbors/residents who are your current Directors and are readily available to listen and respond to any issues or questions you may have.

WANT MORE INFO?

Check out the web site at <https://www.pointaquariusmud.org/> for more information including meeting notices, agendas, minutes of meetings, legal documents, etc.

Editor: Frank Wengler, Secretary
Point Aquarius MUD