

A Message from Chris Feddersohn
President of the Timber Cove County Water District

June 27, 2021

Great news! For the first time in TCCWD history, the Board voted to lower your water rates yesterday! It has been my goal to lower the water rates since joining the Board 3 1/2 years ago. The rates went from 9 cents per gallon to 7 cents per gallon. The average full-time resident's water bill will go down approximately \$80-100 per month. We realize that all of you would like to see even lower rates but this is as much as we can responsibly do at this time. The Board will re-examine the rates again in January 2022. The new rates will go in effect next month and will be reflected on the bill you receive in August.

We were unable to consider lowering the rates until we had a clear picture of where the district stood financially. The TCCWD was 5 years delinquent in State and County audits. The County Tax Assessor told our Treasurer John Gray that TCCWD had the worst compliance they had ever seen. John Gray and Melany Collett were able to complete 5 years of delinquent audits in only one year with a 6th soon to be turned in. The 2021 audit will begin in July. Over \$45,000 of your money was spent to bring TCCWD into compliance. John Gray is putting systems in place that will prevent future boards from making the same mistakes again. This will be the first time since 2012-13 that the district will be current and starting the audit on time. That means that we are again eligible to apply for grants from the State and County. We will also explore what opportunities for water districts are included in the proposed Federal Infrastructure Bill.

During the 2014-15 drought, the reservoir was allowed to get critically low. The district was forced to obtain a grant to purchase water to be trucked to the reservoir. That triggered a red flag from the state, requiring a source capacity study. Our one and only water source is the Timber Cove Creek. David Long engineered the TCCWD in the 1990s. The Board engaged him this year to complete a study of our water source capacity. We had to prove to the state that the Timber Cove Creek has enough capacity to fill our 9.5 million gallon reservoir each year. That report was completed last month. The state is satisfied with our water capacity study. The report has given our operators the tools to monitor water usage and storage each month. This will alert us if or when mandatory conservation measures are needed. Even though we are in a severe drought, the reservoir has enough water to meet the needs of the whole district for the coming year. Going forward we still have to conserve and be mindful of our water usage.

Please join us for the TCCWD meetings on the 4th Saturday of each month.

Best regards,
Chris Feddersohn