

Communications/Sustainability Update

As part of the Co-ops 2019 focus to support sustainable best practices, we will sponsor two landscaping classes in April to be presented by our horticultural consultant, Tracy Neal. The classes will focus on plant selection and horticulture within Las Campanas. An email invitation will be sent out in March. Be sure to RSVP, as space will be limited to the first 40 attendees.

The Co-op's new website will launch this March. It is designed to make information on governance, bill payment, and contacts more easily accessible. A highlight of the website is a section that offers information on best practices for water conservation, plant selection, irrigation, seasonal guidance, and post-construction revegetation techniques.

We are also developing A "New Homeowner's Guide to Water Allocation and Conservation in Las Campanas" to be provided to all new homeowners, developers, architects, and realtors as part of our sustainability outreach. We will host a quarterly new member welcome coffee to provide information about "all things water" in Las Campanas with a special emphasis on Eye on Water as an important tool.

Special thanks member Brian Weiss who is supporting our communication and sustainability efforts by contributing his writing and editing skills.

Eye on Water Update

The implementation of the new Eye on Water program continues to be on track, with estimated completion by mid-March of this year. Estates 3,4,5,7, Casitas, and Park Estates have been installed.

As the Eye on Water program is implemented, the staff is contacting homeowners to ensure that every member makes use of this tool. We have already heard from grateful homeowners who have been alerted of leaks and been able to make timely repairs timely without expensive water overages.

If you are a resident in one of these areas, please be sure to sign up following the directions sent to you by the Co-op. Questions? Contact Heather Roybal at 505-930-7155.

February installations:

Week 1: Ranch Estates, Pueblos, Los Santeros

Week 2: Los Santeros, Las Melodias,
Villas, Puertas

Week 3: Silver Mesa, Black Mesa

March installations:

Week 1: Las Terrazas, Hacienda Del Corazon

Week 2: Commercial customers

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 9

N E W S L E T T E R

Save the Date and Mark Your Calendar

April 10 ~ Landscaping for Today and Tomorrow presented by Tracy Neal, Club at Las Campanas

April 17 ~ Quarterly Co-op Members Meeting, Club at Las Campanas at 3pm

April 24 ~ Plants for Las Campanas presented by Tracy Neal, Club at Las Campanas

May 8 ~ New Members Welcome Coffee (10am, Co-op Office)

Welcome New Members!

The Co-op would like to welcome the following new members:

- Penny Youngblood, *Club Casitas*
- Trenton and Denise Sensiba, *Estates III*



Las Campanas Water Cooperative

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

President's Message - Ken Kirk

At its first meeting of the year in January, the Water Coop boasted record attendance, focusing attention on the installation of the Eye on Water system, which will enable our members to track their water usage and help us conserve this valuable resource. Our Committee Chairs and staff updated attendees on our 2019 objectives and goals and highlighted our rebranding efforts, including a newly designed website, logo and newsletter format. We are planning another insightful program for our next meeting in April and encourage all of you to attend and participate.

I am happy to report that the Coop is in very good shape financially. We work within our budget and have significant reserves. Some may question why we need the level of reserves we have, but I can assure you that we can't afford to rest on our financial laurels. While the condition of our assets has always been good and adequately maintained, they continue to age and require attention. Our primary responsibility is to maintain our water infrastructure so we can continue to provide clean and safe water to our members.

In 2018, we reviewed an initial asset inventory and assessment provided by our contract operator, Jacobs Engineering, and we are now in the process of fine-tuning their work to determine which parts or aspects of our system require our immediate

attention. We plan to use this information to develop a 3-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which will in turn help us later in the year as we develop our 2020 budget.

The Coop is also commissioning a rate study to update the "Cost of Service Study" the Coop supported several years ago. The purpose of this study is twofold: first, to review our current rates and rate structure to determine whether they still make sense in view of the significant development and increase in population that Las Campanas has experienced over the past 5 years; and, second, to review our current conservation policies and recommend changes that may be necessary to enhance our conservation program. As part of this study, our consultant will review and place in context the County's adopted 5-year rate increase schedule, which will impact our members starting in July and will factor in to the development of our 2020 budget later in the year.

In addition to our focus on asset management and rates, the Coop will be working with Jacobs to renegotiate our multi-year contract. Jacobs and CH2M Hill, the company Jacobs bought last year, has been our contract operator for many

years, with an excellent track record of permit and regulatory compliance. As Las Campanas grows, however, the work related to operating and maintaining our treatment facility and our collection and distribution network will get more complicated, more staff intensive, and more expensive. We have had a great working relationship with Jacobs over the past two years and look forward to working with them for many years to come.

For most people, buried water infrastructure is "out of sight, out of mind." The Coop, however, "sees" and "thinks about" it all the time. We know that we can't take this precious resource, water, for granted. We know that we are going to have to do our homework, assess our infrastructure needs, and prioritize our investments in the future. We know that we are going to have to ensure that we have the financial capability to meet our needs. And we know the value of water and the need to conserve and sustain this treasure. We have a committed staff and a committed Board of Directors and we look forward to working with our members to sustain our water future and our way of life here in Las Campanas.

