

JULY 2018

# PINERY PIPELINE



## *From your board of directors*

A Mail-in Ballot Election was held for three Pinery Water Board Director positions on May 8<sup>th</sup>. In case you were curious of the results, here is how each fared by number of votes:

Steve Tinnes – 700  
Heidi Tackett – 632  
Jim McGannon – 511  
Joe McCabe – 489  
Randall Sims – 343

Heidi Tackett and I remain on the board for another 4 years, and Jim McGannon is the newest member. Jim brings a new dimension and differing opinions to the Board, which may prove to be interesting as well as helpful.

Since the Board acts as your “voice”, hearing from you is important. There are 5 board members, each with a vote worth 20%. Board meetings are held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month where the public is given the floor to make comments, suggestions, or simply listen to what the issues of the day are.

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, a Public Information Meeting was held to discuss with and inform residents of the District’s Water Efficiency Plan required by State Statute. Its design promotes efficient water consumption to help secure our future water supply. You can find the Plan on the District’s website. A public hearing regarding it is scheduled for August 15, 2018 at the monthly board meeting. So be there or be square.

The Pinery Water District serves a very unique residential area. Homes built here are mostly custom ones with lawns ranging in size from postage stamps to soccer fields. In the 34 years that I have lived here, it has grown from about 1,500 to 4,400 homes, and from one golf course to three. So, with this growth, the demand for water has increased dramatically.

Since we get most of our water from Cherry Creek and a significant amount from WISE water, sustainability of our water supply is fairly secure. Another project underway is the Walker Reservoir development which will add even more to our supply. Use of the Denver deep aquifers, non-renewable at this point, is last resort and to meet peak demands. The challenge is to use water wisely and not waste it.

Interestingly, it seems the word *Efficiency* is replacing the word *Conservation*. This makes a lot of sense. Conservation implies that water is in short supply, so we dare not use it, while Efficiency implies that we have water but need to manage it properly. Use what you need, but no more.

You’ve seen the Watering Restriction signs lately, but not because water is in short supply. When the weather turns hot and dry with little rainfall, it’s important that residents are not watering lawns all on the same day. The shallow wells pumping from Cherry Creek just cannot keep pace with the demand. Using Odd/Even watering days cuts the demand in half, reducing the need to activate the deep wells, and saves us all money.

Please join us at our District Office for our regularly held Board Meetings at 6:30pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.

Our next Board Meeting will be held at 6:30pm on Wednesday, August 15, 2018

## Conservation vs. Efficiency—What’s the Difference?

The terms “water conservation” and “water efficiency” are often used interchangeably but have different meanings. **Conservation** refers to those measures that provide verifiable, permanent water savings or a reduction in the amount of water consumed. This is separate and in addition to the temporary savings that result from short-term drought restrictions and related programs. **Efficiency** focuses on reducing the amount of water waste—using the minimum amount of water necessary to accomplish a task.



**Steve Tinnes,**  
**Board Member, Pinery Water and Wastewater District Board of Directors**

## Water Efficiency

Water Education Colorado provides Citizen's Guides describing many aspects of Colorado water resources. The guides from Water Education Colorado can all be found at [watereducationcolorado.org/news-and-publications/citizen-guides](http://watereducationcolorado.org/news-and-publications/citizen-guides). There you can find out more about conservation and efficiency through the Citizen's Guide to Colorado Water Conservation.

Here are excerpts from the Citizen's Guide to Conservation highlighting some opportunities for savings.



**Demonstration xeriscape garden at Pinery Water office**

### Xeriscape landscaping

“Developed in Colorado, the basic principles of Xeriscape remain paramount to all conservation-oriented landscaping. These include: planning and design, soil improvement, grouping plants with others that have similar water demands, practical turf, efficient irrigation, mulching, and maintenance. Planting native and low-water-use plants is also often included” (Coleman, 2016).

### Smart meters

“Ranging in functionality, smart meters collect household water use data in real time or regular intervals and convey that information to both the local water provider and the consumer. Having real-time access to metering information allows consumers to monitor their use from a smartphone or computer and adapt based on that feedback” (Coleman, 2016).



Pinery Water offers the EyeOnWater Advanced Metering Program including an advanced meter and a smartphone app to monitor usage in real-time. You can learn more about EyeOnWater at the Water district website at [pinerywater.com/articles-information](http://pinerywater.com/articles-information).

Coleman, C. (2016) Citizen's guide to Colorado water conservation (2nd ed.). Retrieved from <https://www.watereducationcolorado.org/news-and-publications/citizen-guides/>

## Top 10 Ways to Save Water Outdoors

- 1 Use climate-appropriate landscape techniques, including drought-tolerant plant selection, soil amendment, and irrigation hydrozones where plants with similar water requirements are grouped together.
- 2 Water appropriately. Adjust watering through the irrigation season to match climate conditions and obey local irrigation ordinances and restrictions.
- 3 Water during cooler hours and not on windy days.
- 4 Avoid watering if it has rained in the past few days or will rain again soon. Install a rain or soil moisture sensor if one isn't included in an irrigation controller.
- 5 Aerate in the spring or fall to open up soil to absorb more moisture.
- 6 Mulch to improve moisture retention and to control weeds that compete for water.
- 7 Don't water the sidewalk, rocks or road. Use a broom to clean a driveway or sidewalk.
- 8 Cut grass at least 3 inches in height to encourage deeper roots and better moisture retention.
- 9 Apply fertilizers that use slow-release, water-insoluble forms of nitrogen to reduce water requirements.
- 10 Use efficient technology like drip irrigation, rotary nozzles and smart irrigation controllers where appropriate.

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