

# **TONTO HILLS DOMESTIC WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

## **MAILING ADDRESS**

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## **DWID Bits 2013 Accomplishments**

- Achieved \$47,194 in Operating Income; 28% more than last year. This is largely due to less contract labor, fees and permits, less outside repair and maintenance, and lower Scottsdale water billings.
- Reduced our Water Infrastructure Financing Authority (WIFA) loan obligation by \$58,523 due to assessment collections. This is well in excess of our scheduled debt repayments. Many members paid in full or in advance.
- Delivered 9,992,800 gallons. This is only 4,300 gallons more than last year.
- Obtained a Groundwater Storage Permit from the Arizona Department of Water Resources and executed an agreement with the Roosevelt Water Conservation District to “bank” the portion of our CAP allocation that we do not plan to use each year. In 2014, we are scheduled to use 34 acre-feet of water and bank 37 acre-feet. The banked water can be used in times of long-term water shortages and can grow in value as an asset.
- Completed a strategic review of the DWID’s mission, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.
- Submitted the 2014 water order to the Central Arizona Project and the City of Scottsdale.
- Completed an Operations Review by non-Board members. This is designed to ensure we are following our published procedures and have good financial controls. We received a favorable report.
- Completed water cost comparison with Cave Creek, Carefree and Scottsdale. Due to our small size and water treatment/transportation surcharges, our rates are higher.
- Completed unbilled gallons comparison with Carefree and Cave Creek. Based on unbilled gallons per connection mile, our figures are favorable. Cave Creek=66, Carefree=46, Tonto Hills=31.
- Developed a set of financial and water use graphs that allows the Board to quickly observe trends.
- Held a public hearing on water conservation, drought stages and related five-tier pricing structure. The new pricing structure was adopted and put into effect for 2014.
- Re-bid insurance coverage. We decided to stay with the existing coverage and carrier.
- Inspected the tank, cleaned it and made minor repairs. The next inspection is scheduled for 2018.
- Installed cement collars on 20 valves. This allows much easier location and shutdown on main pipe sections in the event of a break.
- Purchased a metal detector to assist in locating the valve heads for the other 13 valves.
- Used state-of-the-art sonar leak detection equipment to check our seven miles of pipe main. We found no leaks, but are uncertain if the device is effective in our type of environment.
- Installed a tank input sampling port. This allows us to check the quality of water received from Scottsdale.

- Installed additional tank electronics, including a digital flow meter. This will allow quick identification of any abnormal changes in the tank flow and verification of the Scottsdale water meter.
- Re-configured the inlet piping and manhole to the tank to provide for better flow control, freeze protection, and bypass capability.
- Conducted continuous remote monitoring of water level in the storage tank and used the alarm capabilities to identify and mitigate water losses that would likely have gone unnoticed in the past. Documentation provided by the monitoring system allowed us to properly invoice builders for water use.
- Purchased a portable flow meter for use on our standpipes to measure water used for construction and fire fighting exercises.
- Added “no pumping, gravity flow only” signs to the standpipes. These signs alert Rural Metro and the Scottsdale Fire Department how to properly use our standpipes and prevent damage to the system.
- Developed a valve exercise program schedule. This ensures that valves aren’t “frozen” when we need to shut down a section of the main pipes, and helps us to identify when valves need replacement.
- Developed an incident log program. This allows for a historical review of past problems and identification of more permanent fixes needed.
- Replaced a leaking standpipe.
- Conducted valve-closing training for Board members.
- Met all the reporting requirements to state agencies, including the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) on water quality.
- Identified the types of meters installed in the system, conducted an analysis of available replacement meters, and developed a plan to replace fifty water meters in our system.
- Identified three water trucking companies that could be used in the case of a short-term water emergency.
- Drafted new build/remodel considerations/requirements. This will help ensure that new builds and applicable remodels use water conserving appliances and pool covers.
- Identified leak detection companies. We will provide information on their scope of expertise, quality ratings and pricing to potentially interested members.
- Appointed Keith Peirce to the Board, replacing Charles Hoagland
- Appointed Steve Rensel as Assistant Superintendent, replacing Kirk Landauer. Both trained extensively with Lou Frederick.
- Attended 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Rural Water Infrastructure Committee Funding Forum to investigate grants.
- Sent courtesy informational letters to high water users.
- Sent newsletters on How to Know If You Have a Leak, Landscape Watering Guidelines, Freeze Warning and Rate Schedule Announcement.