

Kilmaley-Inagh GWS

Report

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Message From The Chairman

As we approach our Annual General Meeting on the 20th of March we can reflect on another successful and busy year for the scheme. Our newsletter is intended to highlight some of the issues encountered by the committee over the last year.

A year of heavy rain-fall resulted in a deterioration in quality of the lake water at LoughNaMinna— our source, however our treatment plant is well capable of handling this.

Our treated water continues to pass all quality assurance testing by the scheme itself and Clare County Council and the HSE.

Our daily demand has fallen by 600m³ to an average of 1200m³ per day. This is due to a combination of mains replacement works, leak detection from data gathered from telemetry bulk meters and the elimination of water wastage on our consumer side as a result the introduction billing on meter usage. Revenue collection is ongoing and we would like to thank all those who have paid their charges and remind those who have yet to pay to forward their payment as soon as possible. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

James B. Lynch
Chairman
Kilmaley Inagh GWS.

Irish Water— What does it mean for the future of our Group Water Scheme?

Irish Water is the new public water authority that is in the process of being established. It will take over the running of all water and wastewater services from the local authorities by 2017. The setup of Irish Water is a complex project that will be undertaken over a number of phases up until 2017. It is currently envisaged that private group water schemes with their own source and treatment facilities, will not be taken over by Irish Water and will continue to exist as a water service provider. Group Water schemes will have the option of requesting to be taken over should they wish. However this option is currently available from the local authority. Currently our scheme's grant applications for all grant aided funding is dealt with through the local authority. It is envisaged that this function will transfer to Irish Water. Currently the Local Authority acts as the supervisory authority for group schemes in terms of water quality assurance and compliance. It is not

clear if the local authority will retain this function or if the EPA will supervise group schemes directly.

One area that is a worry for group schemes is how funding will be effected by the establishment of Irish Water. Schemes are currently entitled to 85% funding for capital infrastructure that includes water mains replacement. This level of funding will have to be maintained if necessary mains replacement works are to continue. Water treatment and operational subsidy arrangements that exist for water supplied for domestic use may be effected. It is suggested that Irish Water will begin to charge water users on public schemes in 2014. Group schemes provide its members a free allowance for domestic connections and receive a subsidy of approximately €260 for the production of this water and its delivery. The reality is that this subsidy may well be reduced for group schemes and more revenue will

be collected from its members in line with charges on public schemes. This will result in revision of charges to members across the group scheme sector. Schemes may have to become financial independent and not dependent on grant aid to balance to books. The appointment of a water regulator will set the price for water charges on public schemes but it is yet unknown if it will set charges on group schemes.

It is likely that any member connected to a public sewage system will become a customer of Irish Water for waste water treatment only and would remain a customer of the group water scheme for their water supply. Members with a septic tank for waste water treatment would be unaffected by this element.

There is still a lot of clarity required from government on the impact of the establishment of Irish water. The reality is that Irish water is still in its infancy and a lot of what has been outlined may change before 2017.

Not Checking for water leakage may cost you €1000's.

You must get into the habit of regularly checking your own water meter readings. This is the only indication that you could have a water leak on your connection. An undetected leak can lead to a water bill of hundreds if not thousands of euro in a 12 month period. **Reading your meter costs nothing not reading may cost you a lot.** Members with a domestic connection currently receive a free allowance of 140m³ of water per year. This will reduce going forward. It is still well above the normal use by a family of four - 90m³ and significantly higher than the allowance on other group schemes. **If you stay within this free allowance you pay nothing.**

Text Alert System

Our mobile text facility is working very well allowing members to receive urgent information by mobile phone. We have over 700 members on the system so there are still 1200 members who have not supplied information to us. It would be beneficial if shareholders would supply their mobile phone numbers to facilitate this process. Text your name, address and mobile number to **0872836118**

How to check a water meter

- The red dials on the meter are litres. White dials are m³ (1000 litres)
- Ensure at time of reading there is no usage going on for example the washing machine on .
- If the furthest red dial on the right is moving water is going through your distribution system This must be investigated further to identify if you have a leak.
- Note the meter reading so you can produce a usage pattern over time.
- Use your water supply in the knowledge that every litre used or leaked has a production cost associated with it.



Upgrade Works 2013

While a lot of work has been carried out in recent years there is still more to do. Funding has been applied for the replacement of problematic 8 inch mains. Repair work is required on some reservoirs to eliminate some water loss. Replacement pipe work at Bridge crossings at Kylea and Maurice Mills is complete. Installation of Secondary chlorination stations in Kilmaley and Ballyduffmore will be completed by Spring 2013

March 20th date set for Annual General Meeting.

Our AGM will take place in Inagh Community Centre on March 20th at 8pm.

All our members are welcome to attend. We always welcome new committee members. We would encourage members put themselves forward get involved in the committee.

Retirement

In accordance with the rules of the society, one third of the board shall retire each year but are eligible for re-election

without nomination. This year Johnny Crawford, Michael Halpin, Pat Gallagher and Raymond Foudy will retire but all 4 are offering themselves for re-election.

Nominations for the board, other than retiring members shall be in writing to the secretary and shall contain a statement by the member nominated of his or her willingness to be elected. Nominations should be forwarded to the secretary to arrive on or be-

fore March 19th 2013. Secretary : Noel Carmody, Feighroe, Connolly, Ennis. Tel 0872836118.

Agenda

1. Minutes of 2012 AGM.
2. Chairpersons Address.
3. Managers report.
4. Financial Report plus Auditor's Report.
5. Appointment of Auditor.
6. Election of Members to Committee.
7. Any other business.