

# **BIG MESA FALL 2019 NEWSLETTER**

## **IT'S OFFICIAL!**

After several years of gaining compliance from numerous governmental agencies and submitting for various sources for funding, all of which take many hours of effort, Big Mesa was selected to receive funding from the NM Drinking Water Bureau (NMDWB) and NM Finance Authority (NMFA) which totals nearly \$1.45 MILLION! 75% of that total (\$1,083M) is “forgiven” with only 25% (\$361K) to be repaid via a 0.25% interest loan with a 30-year term! The funds will be used for the three major projects identified in our Preliminary Engineering Report (PER). These projects include; 1) a direct pipeline from the filtration system facility to the storage tank, 2) a filtration system and 3) meter replacement with automatic meter reading.

Of course, there are many requirements that Big Mesa must comply with over the next 6 months to secure the funds, which your Staff and Board are aggressively pursuing. This has required additional employees dedicated to complete the funding compliance requirements as well as the continued operations of our water system. Fortunately, Big Mesa is in good financial condition to absorb the additional costs of personnel as well as the loan payment. The favorable funding and implementation of these PER projects will enable Big Mesa to continue to provide safe and reliable water to our members through a much-improved water system, while exceeding the ever-changing regulatory compliance requirements for that water.

Compliance preparations are underway on numerous issues including; 8 years of financial audits, preliminary Engineering Environmental Assessment, financial fiscal year change, safety, emergency and Source Water Protection plans, as well as many upcoming meetings with NMDWB and NMFA. This is just the beginning, your Staff and Board will be busy in the coming months with working with consultants to developing performance specification bids and requests for proposals for installation and owner engineer to manage the projects, This is in addition to attending to the “usual” regulatory requirements; water sampling, testing, and repairs to the water system, as well as preparing for Big Mesa’s annual Sanitary Survey (to be conducted in first week in November by the NM Environmental Department to review the water system). Your Staff and Board are also addressing an update to Big Mesa’s Web site. As Members can see, many “irons” are in the “fire”, and all the while tending that “fire” to keep burning! All this requires many hours of volunteer time by your Board members.

But your Staff and Board are also seeking additional funding from other sources for other projects needed to ensure Big Mesa's Water Treatment System is prepared to continue service to its Members well into the future. To learn more please attend and participate in future Board meetings the second Saturday of every month at 9am at the Water Building.

Lastly, we are reaching out to the community to help us design a NEW Big Mesa MDWCA Logo. The winner will receive a \$50.00 Visa gift card, which was donated. Contest requirements are easy, **BE AS CREATIVE AS YOU CAN!** We would like to see Water included in the design, and **IT MUST INCLUDE "Big Mesa MDWCA"** in it.

The contest begins **November 1, 2019**, and runs through **December 11, 2019**. The Board will decide on the winner December 14, 2019 at the Saturday morning meeting. Winner will be notified by phone. We hope to see lots of entries! All entries can be hand delivered, submitted via email to [www.Bigmesa.platautel.net](http://www.Bigmesa.platautel.net), or mailed in to:

ATTN: Logo Contest  
PO Box 40  
Conchas Dam, NM 88416

FRIENDLY REMINDER: Now that colder weather approaches, please keep in mind our community has many residents who are not full time. Please report any possible leaks if you see water running or pooling where it should not be, overages can be costly. Let's all look out for one another.

Sincerely,

Your Board and Staff

**BIG MESA MEMBERS PLEASE BE AWARE**

**FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS PLATEAU WILL BE INSTALLING FIBER OPTICS IN OUR AREA. WE HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED BY THE CONTRACTOR THERE IS ALWAYS A POSSIBILITY OF A DISRUPTION IN WATER SERVICE. BIG MESA WILL MAKE EVERY ATTEMPT TO ISOLATE THE PROBLEM AND NOTIFY HOME OWNERS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.**

**THANK YOU**

