

BIG MESA SPRING 2019 NEWSLETTER

Spring has “officially” arrived (although it may not feel like it!), which means it’s time to prepare for your Association’s annual elections! Your current Board interviewed two very capable Member/candidates to fill the vacancy of Joe (Nick) Nekoranec, who recently resigned his Board seat. Per Big Mesa’s By-Laws, the Board selected Member Steve Jones to fill that vacancy until June’s Annual Election. Steve is a past Torrance County Manager and long-time Magistrate Judge, with a reputation for honest fairness and transparency as well as experience and contacts at many levels of governments. Steve has already submitted his candidacy for the June election where 3 Board openings are to be selected by Big Mesa’s Members. As well, two current Board Members are up for re-election and have submitted for their inclusion on the ballot.

Any Association Member can submit their written desire to be placed on the ballot by contacting Dana Romero (Business Manager) by April 16th with a written request as well as a brief explanation of experience. Ballots with all candidates listed will be mailed by 5/16/2019 and returned to Big Mesa’s Accounting firm, who will tabulate and announce the results at the June 15th Annual Meeting. The 6/15/19, 10:00am, meeting will begin with Kelly McFarland CPA presenting Big Mesa’s Annual Financial report, followed by regular business, then a break for McFarland to tabulate the submitted ballots and announce the results. Upon arrival, please take a few minutes to mark and return your ballots to ensure all Members participate in your Association’s (& community’s) goals and continuation!

At the recent March monthly meeting numerous agenda topics were addressed:

1) Although no funding for Preliminary Engineering Report projects was achieved this year either through the Drinking Water Bureau or legislators, your Board and management continue to vigorously pursue funding grants & loans. Your Water Board remains optimistic of some success in the coming year.

2) With “spring cleaning” many Members desire our Trash Transfer Station to accept construction debris. Unfortunately, as the Transfer Station is not a land fill, legally Big Mesa cannot accept any construction debris in the compactor or the burn pile. Any Member or Contractor doing construction is required by law to remove construction debris to a land fill. Big Mesa explored adding a special dumpster to accept such debris, but the costs would be excessive and would have to be borne unfairly by all Members.

3) Big Mesa acquired a new work truck via the “truck reserve savings account”, allowing your Association to better serve all your water system’s needs.

To that end, Big Mesa's management team is constantly repairing and upgrading a wide variety of system operations (i.e. work barge, pump platform, distribution system, automation system) all of which have benefitted from the new, specialized work truck while ensuring continued quality water supply to all Members.

4) Financially, your Association remains on solid footing with ample cash and capability to handle all existing and anticipated liabilities. Hopefully in Fiscal year 2019/2020 we can again bolster our several reserve accounts back toward appropriate levels. To fully learn your Association financial condition, please attend your Annual Membership Meeting at 10am on Saturday, June 15th at the Water Building.

5) Finally, at the March meeting, your Board approved the creation of a separate and independent sub-committee. Anna Seaborne will chair the "Source Water Protection" sub-committee. Although formed under the MDWCA, this volunteer committee will be totally independent of Big Mesa with its own board, staff, financials, and meetings. Look for the sub-committee's outreach to the community for assistance in their valuable research and promotional agenda. Big Mesa is in the final stages of updating our website and its hosting location, hopefully the web address "bigmesa-nm.com" will remain. The Business Manager will inform you on your water bill, should the address change. Please remember Big Mesa is currently operating under "winter hours" until May's return to regular summer hours of operation. Currently winter hours are; Transfer station 7days/week and Business office M-F 8:30 – 1:30, Field 8:00 – 4:00 7days/week

Reminder: as required by your By-Laws, every Member is required to have a separate water shut-off valve between Big Mesa's water meter and Member's house which will safely allow member to fully control any water entering the property. A Member operated shut-off valve also eliminates the liability of broken pipes by water leaking through a meter, which all meters may do. **Any Member turning on/off Big Mesa's meter, is strictly prohibited. Member operation of meters causes meter damage and is considered tampering which is subject to at least a fine.** To avoid the possible fine, please call Big Mesa to arrange for a Big Mesa employee to properly operate Big Mesa's meter during normal business hours. There will be a service charge for after-hours service calls.

We hope you can attend the next monthly open meeting of your Association at 9am on Saturday, April 13th at the water building. Until then, enjoy spring with summer coming soon!

Sincerely, Your Big Mesa MDWCA Water Board