

# Lookout Mountain Water District

September 2015

## Beaver Brook Currents

### Update on Increasing Storage in the Upper Beaver Brook Reservoir

The John Roscoe Reservoir at Upper Beaver Brook is the main source of water supply for the Lookout Mountain Water District. It was built by the City of Golden in 1924 and holds 257 acre feet of water when full. (Each acre foot of water contains 325,851 gallons). The District supplies its customers with a total of 160 to 200 acre feet of water in most years, so unfortunately there is little carry over storage capacity in the current reservoirs to ride out a multi-year drought.

This lack of adequate storage capacity was made abundantly clear during the past two droughts when the District was forced to institute water conservation, watering bans, and high usage rates. A water shortage is not only inconvenient to customers, but in a worst case situation, could result in severe household restrictions due to inadequate supply. From the District's financial perspective, it also disrupts the revenue needed for operations, and can also result in higher costs. Locating raw water during a drought is plagued with problems, and most importantly, the water may not be available in the basin; delivery and augmentation costs tend to escalate on a regional basis.

As previously explained, the current design safety margins are such that the existing upper dam and reservoir are physically capable of storing an additional 138 acre feet of water if the reservoir's water level is increased by 10 feet. Engineering studies indicate that a 10-foot concrete labyrinth weir can be installed to raise the dam's spillway. With this planned expansion of the reservoir its new capacity will be nearly 400 acre feet.

Total costs, excluding financing, for the reservoir capacity expansion are estimated at about \$3,325,000 including engineering, permitting, and construction of an upgrade to the control outlets (mandated by the State Engineer for safety issues and by the Water Commissioner), the labyrinth weir, and access improvements. State and Federal permitting requirements have been a significant part of the initial costs. The District received a matching fund grant from the State of Colorado for \$125,000 for engineering costs. Engineering and design is now about 45% complete and includes a Feasibility Study.

The project's Feasibility Study, combined with a District-wide Rate and Reserve Study, will be used to put the District on a sound financial path while planning to maintain and improve infrastructure. Burns & McDonnell has been contracted for the Rate and Reserve Study; GEI Consultants, Inc. is the engineer for the Upper Beaver Brook expansion project. The Rate and Reserve Study will be released to the community once it has been adopted by the Board of Directors; it will be used to guide the Board in setting Budgets, rates and fees for the next 20 to 30 years.

The District has applied for a low-cost loan through the Colorado Water Conservation Board for the construction costs. The District expects that the total costs will be distributed over either 20 or 30 years, to lessen the financial impact on water rates, since the project has the potential to benefit customers over many years. Additional updates as the project advances will continue to be made on a regular basis.



*Upper Beaver Brook Reservoir – full and over-flowing as of May 10, 2015*

*Right side of lake (north) shows the spillway.*

## LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN WATER DISTRICT

### PROVIDING NEW AND IMPROVED BILLING & PAYMENT OPTIONS FOR CUSTOMERS

Helpful Hints on the billing system which is now in use for 3 months:

- Set up online account: [https://www.starnik.net/utilitytrakr/ut4/current/R\\_default.aspx?imagefolder=lom](https://www.starnik.net/utilitytrakr/ut4/current/R_default.aspx?imagefolder=lom)
- Name on the Account: *This is what we have on file, if it needs updated, let us know. Please provide the office with a phone number so we may reach you.*
- Account Number: *Reference your new account number for all transactions  
(old account number is your 5 digit tap number)*
- Current Amount Due: *Pay the amount in the red box, unless you have auto withdrawal (ACH)  
(If you have signed up for ACH, the top of the bill, right hand side will note **\*\*ACH AUTO-DRAFT—DO NOT PAY\*\***)*
- Due Date: Payments must be received in the billing office on or before the 20th of the month, otherwise, a late fee is assessed. If you have questions, please call regarding the late fee.
- Security Code: Use this code for online access and to pay your bill online. If for some reason you just can't log on, please call the office and we may be able to reset your account.
- Pay with E-check, Visa, MasterCard, and Discover online.
- As always, you can sign up for ACH through the office.
- Access the online link via the District's website (see invoice).

The online link is: [https://www.starnik.net/utilitytrakr/ut4/current/R\\_default.aspx?imagefolder=lom](https://www.starnik.net/utilitytrakr/ut4/current/R_default.aspx?imagefolder=lom)

## LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN WATER DISTRICT

### ADDRESS CHANGE REMINDER

Since late 2014, the mailing address for Lookout Mountain Water District changed. We still get payments with the old address, which delay payment processing and may result in late fees.

***Banks processing your payments online are still sending these checks to the wrong address.***

PLEASE!! Notify your bank that the address has changed and that you have a new account number. When those payments are late, policies and procedures require late fees. Most likely your payment would not be late if your bank had the correct information:

Lookout Mountain Water District  
1202 Bergen Parkway, #215  
Evergreen, CO 80439