



Fact Sheet

What is a domestic water improvement district?

A domestic water improvement district is a quasi-governmental entity formed by a county board of supervisors. It is a variation of a county improvement district in that it is governed by a locally elected board of directors rather than the county board of supervisors. Water improvement districts are formed to acquire, build and operate water systems and related activities. The full and proper name is the Beaver Dam East Domestic Water Improvement District of Mohave County Arizona.

When and why was the district formed?

The district was formed on March 23, 1992 by resolution 92-93 of the Mohave County Board of Supervisors. It was initially formed to take possession of and operate the water system for Beaver Dam Estates which was being developed at that time. The district bounds include that subdivision plus several more acres to the east. A map of the district bounds is available by contacting the district.

How is the district governed?

The district is governed by a three member board of directors. To qualify as a board member, a person must be over 18 years of age and a "qualified elector of the district". This means that the person must be registered voter in the state of Arizona and reside within district bounds. All actions of the board must take place at a meeting called for that purpose. With the exception of certain legal and personnel matters, board meeting are open to the public.

How often and where does the district board meet?

The board must meet at least twice a year, but usually meets more frequently than that. Usually the board will meet a couple of times midyear as part of the budgeting process and then again at the beginning of the year to review progress. The board meets other times as needed, but since the board members are not paid for their service we like to minimize the number of meetings. The meeting location varies but is listed in the meeting notice which will be posted at the post office.

Are you a regulated public utility?

No we are not regulated by the Arizona Corporation Commission. Rates, fees, terms, conditions and all other matters are determined by the district board. Remember that because of member qualifications, board members are also customers of the district.

Are your financial matters regulated?

Determination of financial matters is left to the district board. The county board of supervisors does have the right to comment on such matters, but no direct authority over them. The budgeting and rate setting process is extensive and open to the public.

Where does my water come from?

We exclusively distribute groundwater from a single well.

Is the quality of the water you provide regulated?

We are considered a community water system and are subject to EPA safe drinking water standards. The water we deliver is frequently tested for a number of parameters and the state of Arizona inspects the system and reviews our practices on about and annual basis.

Is my water chlorinated or fluoridated?

We do chlorinate in the hotter months to guard against the possibility of bacterial growth. Bacterial growth potential increases with temperature. We do not fluoridate.

How can I find more information about my drinking water?

Each year we distribute a consumer confidence report to customers. It lists the results of water quality testing and other useful information. Copies of the current and prior year reports can be downloaded from our website.

Do you pay taxes?

No, as a governmental entity we are not subject to property or income taxes. Other items such as unemployment or social security taxes on employees still apply.

Are board members paid?

Not for their service on the board. Board members are reimbursed for expenses incurred on behalf of the district and for millage on district business.

Do you meter water used?

Currently no, but the board has determined that any new developments joining the system will be in some form. The board is also considering the installation of meters on existing connections. There are two reasons for this. One is to discourage water waste by catching abusers and the second is to enhance system administration.

How are your rates structured?

Water services are assigned to a rate class at the time of connection. Also, we may choose to reassign a single customer or group of customers to a different rate class at our discretion. There are three classes of service.

Flat rate service means that a fixed amount is charged each month regardless of water used. Although this is the simplest method and was used for early customers, the board of directors has determined to stop the practice for new developments. We consider inclusion in this class a privilege and if we suspect you are wasting water may reassign you to a metered class and you would be charged for the meter installation.

Metered service means that the meter is read each month and the customer is charged based on actual water used. There is considerable cost to reading meters each month. Because of this, we have developed a compromise method.

Meter verified service operates by charging a fixed fee each month similar to flat rate service. The fixed fee includes a certain amount of water use. The meter is read according to a schedule and if total use exceeds to total included use since the last meter reading, the customer is billed for the extra. Unlike a flat rate, this method catches those who waste water but has lower meter reading cost than a fully metered rate.

How and when are your rates and fees set?

Rate and fee setting is a complex activity. Secondary fees such as connection and returned check fees are usually intended to recover some cost to the district. The labor and material used in establishing a new connection or bank fees for a returned check are examples. Water service rates are more complicated and less certain since you are trying to predict the future. The basic idea is to add up all expected operating costs for the next year, plus debt service if any, plus money to be set aside for future expenses such as major repairs or improvements plus a contingency if you're wrong and to divided the total fairly among customers.

The district fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30 of each year. The budgeting process for the next year takes place just before the new fiscal year and rates and fees are evaluated then. The process is open to the public and if rate or fee changes are to occur, a public hearing is held.

I own property outside the bounds of the district; can you provide me water service?

Your property would need to be annexed to the district in order for us to extend service. If your property is continuous with district bounds and there aren't complicating factors, a single parcel can be added quite simply. You should contact us for an annexation application which lays out the requirements. Basically we need legal description of the property and proof of ownership to proceed. We will need to verify that your property is continuous with district bounds, that all owners have consented to the annexation and that it isn't within the service boundaries of another provider. If the requirements are met, the matter will be considered by the district board at the next available meeting. If board decides to approve the application, they will order the district bounds amended to include your property. Most likely you will need to enter into a main extension agreement with the district and pay all costs associated with providing water to your parcel.

Annexation of multiple parcels, parcels where not all owners have consented to the annexation or parcels when another provider is involved is possible but more complex.

What if I suspect my meter is incorrect or was read wrong?

Contact us to have the meter reread or tested. Please be aware you may be charged a service fee if the meter was read correctly or the meter is found to be working properly.

Beaver Dam East Domestic Water Improvement District

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