Bayou Des Cannes Water System Meeting
Monday, January 22, 2024

Customer Informational Handout

History, Coverage Area, and Usage of Bayou Des Cannes Water System

Why does BDCWS lose or run out of water faster than some other rural water systems?

1. BDCWS started with 500 customers in 1992 and currently has 1,600 customers. The coverage area goes from Iota to Basile, Basile to Mamou to Eunice, and all areas in between. The water systems we border are LAWCO in Eunice, Mamou Road, Town of Mamou, Savoy Swords, North of Crowley water system, the Town of Iota, Egan Water System, and East Allen Water System.
2. Around 1995, BDCWS agreed to furnish 100% of the water to the town of Basile.
3. The prison in Basile started as a small holding facility. It shut down and renovations were completed. Today, it now holds over 700 inmates. With the prison factored into the Basile coverage area, it previously used somewhere around 4.5 million gallons. Now over 7 million gallons are used in cooler months and even more in the summer months.

BDCWS was created to provide water to as many people in rural areas as it possibly could. With that being said, the lines are often smaller than they should be, but the reason was feasibility at the time. BDCWS would have never secured a loan that it could possibly not pay back. Currently, BDCWS owes about 1.4 million dollars for the initial BDCWS plant investment, and preventative maintenance on storage tanks, water tower, and deep wells which should be paid off by 2032. Right now, the water system pays about $216,000 annually on this debt.

32 years have passed. Mr. Paul has been here for 27 years. In the earlier years, he can remember running out of water on numerous occasions if a hard freeze was more than one night back-to-back and at the time the customer water demand was way less.

Water usage per day in gallons	
Winter	432,000
Summer	684,000
Average	558,000
Max	864,000

Currently, BDCWS and the town of Basile together consist of 2,500 water meters. If the plant is not shut down at night, a conservative estimate, if half of the customers run water at 1 gallon/minute, would calculate to

$$1{,}250 \times 60 \times 24 = 1{,}800{,}000 \text{ gallons @ max production}$$

BDCWS would fall 1,000,000 gallons short plus another 500,000 gallons short if normal consumption would be added. This would lead to a total of 1.5 million gallons that the plant can't produce.

Customers North of Highway 190 usually have good water pressure throughout during the freezing temperatures and some of their water bills reflect this. This is because they are close to BDCWS. The further south customers live on the water system the less water pressure they have. Some customers have told us before that they have gone 4 or 5 days without water in past freezes. When the plant is shut down at night, the goal is that all customers will have enough water to at least function during the day.

For example, if we have 10 customers that each consumes 5,000 gallons of water per night, which we always do by customers letting the water run, that would add an additional 50,000 gallons of water BDWS would need to produce nightly.

Additional Upgrades

Could BDCWS add another location with a smaller-scale plant and wells on the southern part of the system because of continuous growth and demand for water?

Without freeze events, our system doesn't usually have any issues keeping up with demand. Running the numbers during these freeze events an upgrade to the water system may still not meet the demand for more than one night of a hard freeze. Any additional upgrades would require new debt. New debt would require an increase in revenue by way of raising water rates. What percent of our customers are willing to pay more each month to benefit them a few days a year?