

PWSD #2 Water Meter Replacement

During the past several years, PWSD #2 has been evaluating customer water metering systems in an effort to upgrade our current system. Although meters are replaced when age and high usage dictate, the basic function of the meters had changed little since the inception of the district in the 1970's. To record the usage on these meters, the meter pit has to be accessed, the meter visually read, and manually recorded.

After analyzing various types of meters, metering systems, and distributors, PWSD #2 signed a contract with Midwest Meters, of Edinburg, Illinois, to supply a cellular system, utilizing Badger meters. The district had been utilizing Badger meters for several years, and were pleased with both the meters and the distributor. The new meters will transmit water usage data directly to the office by utilizing the cellular network. So far, roughly half of the district's 1400+ active meters have been replaced by district personnel.

This new metering system will provide the district, and the individual customer, with valuable information. Most importantly, from a customer standpoint, leaks can be identified quickly. If water usage does not drop to 0 gallons/minute, in a 24-hour period, an alert will appear. There may be a reason for the continual usage...livestock drinking, irrigation, etc. However, even with the limited number of meters installed, district personnel have been able to notify numerous customers about possible water leaks. Other data, such as the temperature of the meter, is also transmitted, so district personnel can proactively prevent freeze-up issues.

The District asks for the customers' patience as we continue the meter replacement process. District personnel are performing this task, in addition to their other responsibilities, so it may take some time before the replacement job is complete. However, the new water metering system should provide a valuable asset in improving our ability to provide water to our customers.