

Sky Country Estates MDWCA Spring Update.

It's April, spring has arrived and with that it's time to give everyone an update on the Sky Country Estates water system.

### **Water line leak.**

As you all know, over the first three months of the year we had been working on locating and repairing a leak in the system. We located and repaired the leak and the water system is back operating as normal as of the second week in March, as normal as we can get considering the lack of moisture over the past couple of years. We replaced a large section of the water line from well # 2 on lot # 68 to the storage tank on lot # 9. We were able to use an existing unused pipeline and the rest was new pipeline to eliminate the leak. We also had to replace a booster pump that sent the water from well # 3 on lot # 32 to the main storage tank in January, compounding our water supply issue.

The cost for the parts to repair the leak and replace the booster pump totaled \$8,559.40. This does not include the hours of volunteer labor provided by members of our community. Because of the loss of production from the wells during this time, we had to purchase water and have it hauled up the mountain. That added another \$4,128.00. That is a total of \$12,687.40. The good news is during this time we were able to provide water for everyone.

### **Water System Status.**

Currently our two working wells are producing enough water to almost break even with the current water use. Production is decreasing weekly due to the ongoing drought. As summer approaches we expect higher water use, which means we will have to purchase water to keep up with the demand. Our water system improvement project is not expected to improve our water production for at least another two years. The Board of Directors is investigating redrilling well # 1 which has been offline for at least 15 years due to it collapsing. The estimate we received to redrill came in at \$50,000. There is no guaranty we will find water, but the well was producing as much as well as 2 before it collapsed and because it will be drilled in the same proximity as the existing well, the thought is it would be successful. The Board is working with the engineers to try to find discounted funding from the State to redrill well # 1 so we can get it done this summer if it is decided to redrill. If State funding is unavailable, we will look into the possibility of a bank loan. We need the water.

### **Water system improvement project.**

Our engineering firm has started the design process for all the improvements to our water system. Their work is paid for largely by a grant we received from the New Mexico Finance Authority and is phase one of the project. There is a small loan that we will eventually have to pay back, \$27,500, with an interest rate of .25% over 20 years, about \$2.50 per member per month.

Over the last two years we have applied for construction grants for the second and third phases of the project, a new water source and new storage tank. We have been denied grants because we were told we were not ready for construction to start because the design was not done. We will be applying again this year with the knowledge that the design will be done this year. Many of the entities that applied for grants last year did not receive any this year either. I have been advised it is very beneficial to contact our state legislative representatives and let them know about our water situation and to keep reminding them

because “the squeaky wheel gets the grease”. We all should put this on our calendars to contact them frequently during the upcoming application cycle. Our State Representative is Harlan Vincent. Email: Harlan.Vincent@nmlegis.gov. and State Senator is James Townsend. Email: townsend@pvt.net. should you want to put a bug in their heads. They are our representatives that help determine who gets the grant money in the state.

### **Water System Improvement Project Committee.**

At the last Board meeting on April 8, 2026, the Board voted to create a Water System Improvement Project Committee for the purpose of working with Souder Miller and Associates and New Mexico Finance Authority, regarding financing and construction options to complete the project efficiently and to act with fiscal responsibility for the Association. The original members of the committee are the Board of Directors who are charged with selecting the committee members going forward. The Board is asking anyone that would like to be part of the committee to please contact any Board member. The Board of Directors will determine the number of committee members and members from those that volunteer as soon as possible. To be a part of the committee you must be a member of SCEMDWCA which you all are. If you would like to be involved with the improvement project, please send the Board an email at [boardscemdwca@gmail.com](mailto:boardscemdwca@gmail.com) which will go to all the Board members or contact a Board member so we can add you to the list. Board members are:

Ed Koch 602-510-8582 [koch2nm@gmail.com](mailto:koch2nm@gmail.com)

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In summary, the water system is currently holding its own. We need more water. Should mother nature provide a great monsoon with lots of moisture, we would not see any positive effect on water production until the end of the year. We may have to purchase more water than normal until well production increases. Should it be decided to redrill a well and it is successful that will be a substantial help. Please consider volunteering to help with the water project by emailing the Board, [boardscemdwca@gmail.com](mailto:boardscemdwca@gmail.com) to be considered for the water project committee.

The Board of Directors has regular monthly meetings on the second Wednesday each month. You are invited to join the meeting, in person or on the conference call. The meeting agenda and information is available on our website prior to the meeting.

Thanks for your time,

Ed Koch

President, SCEMDWCA

[www.skycountrystateswater.com](http://www.skycountrystateswater.com)