

Bear Lake Water Company Projects

Background

The Bear Lake Water Company is responsible for maintaining and operating the sources and delivery systems that supply water to almost two thousand property owners in the Sweetwater Park Development. Included are 931 properties in the Sweetwater Golf Course Homeowners Association (HOA), 614 in the Sweetwater Park HOA, and 421 in the Sweetwater Trailer Park HOA.

The system consists of five storage reservoirs at various elevations on the hill with a series of lift pumps to move water from wells in the valley to the reservoirs on the hill. Water from those reservoirs is then gravity fed to property throughout the Sweetwater development.

The system was developed more than thirty years ago and many of the waterlines in the system were originally installed using Transite pipe; much of which is undersized for today's needs. Equally troublesome is the fact that in many places the pipe was not installed deep enough to avoid freezing during cold winter months. Over the years, for example, cold winters (especially in years of little snow) have caused sections of pipe to freeze and crack during the winter, and then leak in multiple places once the spring thaw begins. The cost of repairing those areas often exceeds \$20,000/year to bring the system back into full operation.

To correct these deficiencies the system is currently undergoing several upgrade projects to bring the system up to code, increase system capacity, and eliminate system freeze up and damage caused by winter weather. Included are the following completed and planned projects:

2007 Projects

During 2007 the Water Company accomplished the following:

- Installed 8" diameter PVC pipe in sections along Sweetwater Parkway between Snowberry on the South and North Alpine Loop on the North. The new pipe replaced the old 4" and 6" diameter Transite pipe that had been installed originally. The new pipe was buried more than 6 feet deep to avoid freezing whereas the old pipe had been buried less than 3 feet deep in some areas.
- Added road base to raise the level of several hundred feet of Snowberry road by as much as three feet beginning at its intersection with Sweetwater Parkway. The purpose of that project was to increase the effective depth of the water pipe along that part of Snowberry to the 6 feet needed to avoid freezing.
- Began the process of bringing a new well on line as a backup to the existing system. Included in the project was the construction of a new well house, shop, and office.

2008 Projects

During 2008 the Water Company accomplished the following additional projects:

- Increased the capacity of the primary lift pump at Reservoir No. 1 to 75-horsepower from 50 and the backup pump to 50-horsepower from 25 and rebuilt the backup pump.
- Completed construction of the new pump-house building and the task of bringing Well No. 2 on line.

- Re-built/upgraded the roads to Reservoir No. one and four and Well-House No. 1.
- Installed a fence around the Trailer Park Reservoir.
- Installed 8" diameter PVC pipe along Snowberry from the point where the road had been raised in 2007 to its intersection with Serviceberry, then along Serviceberry north to its intersection with North Sweetwater Parkway and then west along Sweetwater Parkway to the valve station in that area.
- Installed 8" diameter PVC pipe to replace the undersized pipe feeding the Trailer Park and its fire hydrants.

The cost of Water Company projects from 2002 through 2008 has been in excess of \$1.3 Million.

Future Projects

The following additional projects are scheduled as part of the ongoing upgrade and will be completed as quickly as funding allows:

- Increase the capacity of Reservoir No. 4 either by installing a second tank at that location or replacing the existing tank with a new and larger version.
- Raise roads where existing lines meet code but are not deep enough to avoid freezing during winter.
- Replace waterlines where necessary to increase capacity and place those lines at a depth to avoid freezing.
- Replace waterlines throughout the Trailer Park to move them into the streets and out from under trailers in the park.
- Install fences around all reservoirs that are not already fenced.
- Upgrade/repair miscellaneous isolation valves, pressure relief valves, etc.

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Bear Lake Water Company