

To: SASYNA Council Members

From: SASYNA Water Committee

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1. Conservation water rates - As part of a water Utility East Side Citizens Advisory Panel several years ago, some Atwood neighbors pushed to get the Utility to embrace the idea of conservation water rates--in other words, larger users of water should pay more per gallon. The state Public Service Commission, which determines how much each municipality can charge for water, said during the City's last rate case that Madison could not entertain the idea of conservation rates as long as it sent out a bill only twice a year (as it still does now)--because, the Commission said, customers need to get a bill more frequently so they're able to adjust their water use habits if they find out they're using too much water; a six-month bill does not give you the chance to do that. The PSC said, No conservation rates until you have monthly (or, at least, quarterly) billing. So, monthly bills, indirectly, are a huge conservation issue. We need to have monthly bills in order to have conservation rates.

On April 30 Madison Water Utility General Manager said all customers in the city would be getting a monthly bill starting in September. Some neighbors--especially those who need to tightly budget cash flow to a certain pattern--may freak out when they start getting monthly bills. Property owners now get a Water & Sewer City Services bill twice a year. The City plans to send all customers a 'catch-up' bill in August--depending on where you are in the billing cycle--whether you owe 1 to 5 months--so that everyone starts out at -0- in September. Some may not be planning to have that money available each month. For some, it may take some getting used to. SASYNA Council may want to consider an informational item about this on the SASYNA website.

2. The water utility has not said anything publicly about whether it plans to operate well 8 (Olbrich sledding hill) this summer. Well 8 is a seasonal well; if it runs at all, it runs only in the summer months--July and August--when demand is typically highest. Last summer well 8 water did not go into the distribution system to neighbors' taps at all. A Kipp test well detected contaminants in the groundwater on Ludington Avenue near Lowell School halfway between Kipp and well

8. cis 1,2 dichloroethene--a breakdown product of PCE-- has been detected in very small amounts at Well 8 since at least 2008. Some have suggested the City not run Well 8 until all questions about Kipp contaminants have been resolved. SASYNA Council may want to formally ask the Water Utility GM--and \ or The Mayor-- to not run well 8 this summer.

3. High sodium and chloride levels are a concern in City drinking water wells, including our primary year-round well--well 11 on Dempsey Road near Woodman's East. Main reason is likely heavy application of road salt in winter. Of course, anyone who urges lighter application of salt will get pushback from neighbors who want to ensure safety on roads in winter. A City staff workgroup is now discussing this. SASYNA Council may, at some point, want to consider a letter to City officials backing a policy of lighter application of road salt and \or Open Letter to Atwood property owners urging neighbors to lighten up on the salt application on sidewalks and parking lots.