

IN THE PIPE

NEWSLETTER

Winter/Spring 2022

No. 37

Two New Capital Projects Will Bring Water Service to Unserved Communities



Mendota Road Water Line Extension Project

WCSA is preparing to launch two new capital projects that will provide public water service to Washington County residents who currently depend on private wells. Both projects will eliminate reliance on water sources with documented contamination.

The **Mendota Road Water Line Extension Project** will complete the installation of more than 15 miles of water line infrastructure begun nearly 20 years ago, and will deliver service to the remaining residences in this community. The **Mary's Chapel/Archery Range Road Water Line Project** will enable WCSA to bring water service to homes along Mary's Chapel Road and a portion of Walker Mountain Road, along with an unserved section of Archery Range Road.

Public water service was first made available to the Mendota community in 1993, when WCSA constructed a water line to supply the community and a short portion of Mendota Road, served by the

Mendota Well. Nearly a decade later, the service authority implemented a series of projects that added additional infrastructure along Mendota Road, which provided service for 38 residences.

Between 2007 and 2009, WCSA applied for funding three times to construct nearly two miles of additional water line along Mendota Road. This water line would extend the existing line completed in 2008. A feasible funding offer was not received during this time.

In 2013, WCSA constructed a water line that extended east along Mendota Road from the Scott County line to the end of the service authority's existing line. In addition to adding some new residences to the system, this project was significant because it allowed WCSA to purchase water from Scott County to serve already connected Mendota residents.

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Mary's Chapel / Archery Range Road Water Line Project

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WCSA Project Updates

To learn more about WCSA projects, visit www.wcsawater.com.

Recently Completed Projects:

The **Meter Replacement Project** replaced all water meters throughout WCSA's system with new non-metallic ultrasonic meters, combined with Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) technology. The project was completed in late 2021.

The **Hidden Valley — Phase 2 Project** extended water service to 29 additional residences currently relying on wells and springs. The project is funded by the Virginia Department of Health, the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission, and the Department of Housing and Community Development. The project was completed in late 2021.

Ongoing Projects:

The **Galvanized Line Replacement — Phase 3 Project** is the third step in a three-phase project to replace all galvanized pipe in WCSA's distribution system. The project is widespread across Washington County and consists of seven divisions. The approximately \$30 million project is funded by USDA Rural Development. Construction is underway and expected to be completed by spring of 2022. Divisions 1 and 2 are complete and replaced 49,000 and 27,000 linear feet of water line respectively.



Galvanized Line Replacement — Phase 3 Project

Upcoming Projects:

The **Lee Highway Corridor Sewer Expansion Project** is a multi-phase project that began in 2012 when the Board of Supervisors, Industrial Development Authority and authority boards determined to bring much-needed sewer treatment capacity to the west-central portion of Washington County. The project is funded by USDA Rural Development. Easements are being acquired for the project, which is currently in the final design stages.



Mendota Road Water Line Extension Project

The **Mendota Road Water Line Extension Project** will complete the installation of more than 15 miles of water line infrastructure begun nearly 20 years ago. It will deliver service to the remaining residences in this community — 48 of the 82 existing residences along a more than 10-mile section of Mendota Road. It will also allow the entire length of Mendota Road to be served by WCSA's water system from its Middle Fork Water Treatment Plant. The project, which is currently in the design stage, is expected to begin accepting bids early this spring.

The **Mary's Chapel/Archery Range Road Water Line Project** will enable WCSA to bring water service to homes along Mary's Chapel Road and a portion of Walker Mountain Road, along with an unserved section of Archery Range Road. The project will include 19,000 linear feet of waterline and a pump station, and will provide service to 14 of the 25 existing homes in the project area. The project, which is currently in the design stage, is expected to begin accepting bids early this spring. 💧



Mary's Chapel/Archery Range Road Water Line Project

Hidden Valley Water System Extension Project Completed

Complex project provides clean and reliable service for residents in high-altitude area of Washington County



*Members of the Hidden Valley community recently gathered with WCSA representatives and other stakeholders at Chestnut Grove Community Church for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the Hidden Valley Water System Extension Project. Pictured from left to right are **Steve Sproles**, WCSA project inspector; **Ken Taylor**, WCSA board member; **Johnny Dotson**, Hidden Valley resident; **Ben McFall**, McFall Excavating; **Gene Martin**, Hidden Valley resident; **Brad Humphrey**, Virginia Department of Health; **Angela Wolfe**, Mount Rogers Planning District Commission; and **Ronnie Nunley**, Hidden Valley resident.*

For more than a decade, WCSA has worked to bring reliable water service to the residents of the Hidden Valley area of Washington County. After many years of preparing and acquiring funding, along with two phases of construction, the nearly \$1.4 million Hidden Valley Water System Extension Project was completed in late 2021.

In 2009, several residents contacted WCSA about the possibility of public water service along Hidden Valley Road. A study determined water purchased from the Russell County Public Service Authority (PSA) would be the most feasible method of serving this area. WCSA established an agreement with Russell County PSA, acquired user agreements from residents and began the funding application process for Phase 1 of the project.

Funding was received for Phase 1 in 2013 and construction took place in 2015 and 2016. Water line was installed from a new

connection at the Russell County line along Porterfield Highway, and northward along Hidden Valley Road at approximately 2,500 feet in elevation. Phase 1 provided water service to approximately 30 residences.

In 2018, WCSA applied for and received funding for Phase 2, and construction began in 2020. Phase 2 involved the installation of 7,700 linear feet of water line and two pump stations, and established water service for 29 homes in the highest areas of Hidden Valley.

The entire project provided a dependable water source for residents in a very high-altitude area of Washington County, which presents construction challenges and the need for pumping equipment. These residents no longer have to deal with dwindling water supplies in dry periods or frozen service lines during winter, and are now provided with clean water free from iron or bacteria. 💧

Two New Capital Projects Will Bring Water Service

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In 2018, a majority of the residents living along the remaining unserved section of Mendota Road indicated they wished to participate in the water line extension project. Although this enabled WCSA to again apply for funding each year between 2018 and 2021, a feasible offer was not received until 2021, when the Virginia Department of Health offered \$5.5 million in 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funding for the project.

The Mendota Road Water Line Extension Project will provide service to the remaining 82 existing residences along a more than 10-mile section of Mendota Road. It will also allow the entire length of Mendota Road to be served by WCSA's water system from its Middle Fork Drinking Water Plant.

WCSA has been working on bringing public water to an unserved portion of Walker Mountain Road since 2016,

when several residents first approached the service authority about their interest in being connected. WCSA expanded the project area to include Mary's Chapel Road and an unserved portion of Archery Range Road, which qualified the project for funding assistance. Although funding applications were submitted each year between 2018 and 2021, no feasible offer was received until 2021, when the Virginia Department of Health offered \$1.6 million in ARPA grant funding.

The Mary's Chapel/Archery Range Road Water Line Project will include 19,000 linear feet of waterline and a pump station, and will provide service to 25 existing homes in the project area.

Design of both projects are complete and WCSA is accepting bids for each project, with construction expected to begin in the spring of 2022. 💧

Fix a Leak Week

Did you know that household leaks waste approximately one trillion gallons of water annually throughout the U.S.?

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the average household's leaks can account for more than 10,000 gallons of water wasted every year. In fact, 10 percent of all U.S. homes have leaks that waste at least 90 gallons per day. That's a lot of money flowing down the drain!

The EPA's annual Fix a Leak Week will be held next month (March 14 – 20). While this event spotlights household leak detection and repairs through nationwide contests and fun runs, you don't have to wait until then to find and fix any leaks in and around your home — and start saving valuable water and money.

It's not the little leak that wastes water, but the little leak that keeps on leaking that wastes water, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) — the science agency of the U.S. Department of Interior. But because a leak seems so little is the reason why we tend to ignore it.

How does a little leak turn into a big waste of water? Many people are surprised to learn that the largest use of household water is from flushing the toilet. Many of our toilets have a continuous leak amounting to around 22 gallons per day, which translates into about 8,000 gallons of wasted water per year.

A single faucet that only drips a small amount can also add up to a lot of



wasted water. One drip per minute translates into approximately 34 gallons per day, or more than 12,000 gallons of wasted water per year. If a water line coming into your home leaks a gallon of water every 10 minutes, you are losing 144 gallons per day, or more than 52,000 gallons per year.

Worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets or showerheads, and leaky valves are usually easy to fix, saving homeowners approximately 10 percent on their water bills.

While estimates vary, each household member uses an average of 80 to 100 gallons of water per day, according to the USGS. This includes all household water usage, such as showers, toilets, dishwashers and washers. If your water usage significantly exceeds that figure for an extended period of time, you definitely need to check your home for any possible leaks. 💧

Leak Detection Tips:



- Check your water usage during a colder month — such as February. If a family of four exceeds 12,000 gallons per month, there are likely some significant leaks.
- Check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. Any change in the meter indicates a probable leak.
- Identify toilet leaks by placing a drop of food coloring in the tank. If any color shows up in the bowl after 10 minutes, you have a leak.
- To check for surface leaks, examine faucet gaskets and pipe fittings for any water outside of the pipe.



WCSA Calendar

WCSA offices will be closed on the following holidays:

Presidents' Day
Memorial Day

Feb. 21
May 30



Board Meetings

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING DATES

Feb. 28, 2022
March 28, 2022
April 25, 2022

Board meetings are held at WCSA in the E.W. Potts Board Room at 6 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

Actual dates may vary. Please contact our office to confirm meeting schedule.

Customer Contact Information

Should WCSA need to contact you regarding your water service, we generally do so via text message, email or telephone. If you prefer not to be contacted by one or more of these methods, please call our office at 276-628-7151. If you would like to be contacted but are not sure we have your information, please contact us at 276-628-7151 or inquiry@wcsa-water.com with that information.

E-CHECK PAYMENTS

WCSA NOW OFFERS A 24/7 E-CHECK METHOD FOR PHONE AND ONLINE PAYMENTS. YOU MAY PAY BY CALLING 276-628-7151 AND CHOOSING OPTION 2, OR BY ACCESSING YOUR ONLINE ACCOUNT. CALL CUSTOMER SERVICE AT 276-628-7151 FOR DETAILS.

WCSA
25122 Regal Drive
Abingdon, VA 24211
P: 276-628-7151
F: 276-628-3594

Email: inquiry@wcsawater.com
www.wcsawater.com