

## Mount Pleasant Waterworks \$3 Special Assessment to Pay for Line Relocations Associated with Road Widening Projects No Increase to the Water and Wastewater Rates this Fiscal Year

On Monday June 28, 2010 at the Annual Commission Meeting, the Mount Pleasant Waterworks Commissioners approved a Hwy17 Special Assessment of \$3 per Residential Equivalent Unit (REU). MPW has been struggling with the expense being faced due to the Road Widening and Improvement projects that are planned for U.S. Highway 17 between the Ravenel Bridge and Wando High School over the next 36 months.

State, Federal, and Town money will fund a majority of the projects totaling \$176 million, and the Half Cent Sales Tax money will pay for the Johnnie Dodds Boulevard project (\$84 million). The road widening, improvements and associated storm drain piping are included in their budget, but it does not include any funding for the relocation of the water and wastewater lines. The schedule for the projects had at one time been spread out over ten years; however, the Town is ready to start this important project and moved the completion date to 3 years from now. MPW Commissioners and staff needed to develop a funding plan to cover the \$5 million expense in short order.

MPW met with the Town and County regarding funding, but were unable to secure any money. For this reason, MPW Commissioners approved a temporary Special Assessment of \$3 per Residential Equivalent Unit (REU). An REU is the amount of water an average single family residence uses. Most single family homes will pay for one REU. Businesses, such as restaurants, that use more water will have a Special Assessment based on their REUs. The Special Assessment is for this project only. No funds collected will go towards ongoing operational costs. It is solely for the relocation of the water and wastewater lines.

The good news is the Special Assessment will end when the line relocations are paid for. The Mount Pleasant Waterworks website and customer newsletter will include quarterly updates that will track the money collected and paid out for the project. When sufficient funds are collected the Special Assessment will end. Current estimates indicate the Special Assessment collection will end in 36 months.

In an effort to lessen the financial impact on the customers of Mount Pleasant Waterworks the employees made many efforts to reduce costs to avoid a rate increase in this fiscal year (July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011). Cost reductions included freezing vacant positions, reducing energy and fuel use, holding overtime as low as possible, operating as efficiently as possible, cutting spending to a minimum, and delaying planned projects. "As with many businesses, our employees are learning to do more with less, as we make operating adjustments that reduce costs now and in the future," remarked Clay Duffie, General Manager. He continued, "Our staff will persist in doing what is necessary to hold costs down and continue to provide excellent service to our customers."

### Special Assessment Details:

- The Special Assessment will pay for the line relocations associated with the Hwy 17 Road Widening and Improvements projected to be \$5 million.
- The Special Assessment is \$3 per Residential Equivalent Unit (REU) each month.
- The Special Assessment is the fair and equitable way to pay for the line relocations.
- The Special Assessment will end when the project is paid for— approximately 36 months.
- The Special Assessment is for this project only. No funds collected will go towards ongoing operational costs.

**\$5  
Million  
Goal**

The MPW Operations Center will be closed on **Monday, September 6th for Labor Day**. If you have a water or wastewater service emergency please call **884-9626**. Our Answering Service will contact on-call personnel to assist you. Have a safe and happy holiday!





We have all had our summer fun enjoying the outdoors

and now it is time to clean it up. September is the month when South Carolinians and visitors participate in Beach Sweep/River Sweep to clear trash and debris from our beaches, rivers, and waterways.

Join us September 18th, for Beach Sweep/ River Sweep 2010.

Beach Sweep/River Sweep is our state's largest one-day volunteer cleanup event of its kind. From 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., thousands of South Carolinians clear beaches, rivers, lakes, marshes, and swamps of debris. The cleanup, organized by the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium and S.C. Department of Natural Resources, has taken place annually since 1988 – when Sea Grant first started it. The Sweep takes place in conjunction with the International Coastal Cleanup, coordinated by the Ocean Conservancy. Once the Sweep is over, the Ocean Conservancy tallies all of the debris data. This data helps us learn the sources of litter so we can stop pollution before it starts.

### How to Volunteer

Volunteers, especially large groups from schools, churches, civic clubs, businesses, scouts and others are encouraged to participate.

Let MPW know your interest by calling 884-9626.

### Where to Go

Sullivan's Island Causeway (at the end of Ben Sawyer Blvd.)

### What to Bring

- Heavy work gloves
- Hats, sunglasses, sunscreen
- Mud boots or work boots
- Trash bags will be provided at each site

The MPW bi-monthly Commission Newsletter, Water Lines, is produced in-house and mailed to customers with bills and statements. Current and past issues can also be viewed and downloaded from our website.

## Learn to Be Water Wise



### Water-Wise in the Kitchen and Laundry Room

- Wash only full loads of laundry in your washing machine.
- Run only full loads of dishes in your dishwasher.
- Don't pre-wash dishes! Check if your dishwasher can clean dishes without pre-rinsing them. Most newer dishwashers don't require pre-rinsing.
- Don't keep the rinse water running when washing dishes in the sink.



### Water-Wise in the Bathroom

- Fix leaking faucets and toilets. (Test for a leaking toilet by lifting the lid off the toilet tank and putting a few drops of food coloring into the holding tank. Wait a few minutes, then look in the bowl. If the food coloring has made its way there, you have a leak.)
- Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket!
- Consider replacing any older toilets in your home with new low-flow models that use 1.6 gallons per flush. Toilets ten years or older may be using three-and-a-half to seven gallons per flush.
- Shorten your shower by one minute to save on water and energy.
  - To really save, limit your shower time to five minutes or less, or
  - Install a water-saving showerhead that uses two-and-a-half gallons per minute.
  - Take showers instead of baths. A bathtub holds up to 50 gallons of water– much more than a normal shower would use. (A typical shower uses less than 20 gallons.)
- Turn the water off when shaving or brushing teeth.
- Replace older bathroom faucet nozzles (aerators) with new ones that are rated at 1-gallon per minute.



Would you like to learn more about your water and wastewater provider?

Mount Pleasant Waterworks has speakers available who can be booked for your next meeting. Our "Clean Water Talkers" will speak on general information about Mount Pleasant Waterworks or more specific topics at your request. If you are interested in booking one of our speakers please contact Nicole Bates, Director of Communications, at nbates@mpwonline.com or call 843-884-9626.

### Important Contact Information

#### Customer Service

Phone 884-9626 or email customerservice@mpwonline.com

Email requests received after 12 noon will be processed the following business day.



Turn your pennies into DOLLARS to benefit East Cooper Community Outreach (ECCO) or Water Missions International (WMI). Just call 884-9626 and tell us you want to ROUND-UP your next bill payment to the next highest dollar and request the change go to either ECCO or WMI.

You can also sign up online by clicking the Customer Service tab on the navigation bar, then ROUND-UP on the drop-down menu.



**MPW Operations Center**  
**1619 Rifle Range Road**  
**Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.**  
**884-9626 (phone)**  
**customerservice@mpwonline.com**