



UP THE CREEK

August 1, 2017

Changing Times

It was 62 years ago when a group of rural residents in the Surface Creek valley decided to form a water association. It is easy to understand why – private cisterns commonly were a family's water supply, filled from a variety of sources that would send today's EPA regulators into orbit. It is not so easy to understand why the name chosen for this association turned out to be so long, unless they believed that the endless speculation about that name by those of us who followed them would build character. Lots of things used to be done in the name of building character, such as drinking ditch water from your cistern. In any case, it was soon learned to abbreviate the name to USCDWUA, which in turn has led to speculation about what that word means, and how to pronounce it.

In those 62 years, a lot of changes have come to this organization. From an initial membership of 100, which was required in order to qualify for an FHA loan, it has grown to 1,012 taps today. About 105 miles of pipeline have been built, some of it twice because the original pipes wore out. Water tanks were erected. A treatment plant was built. And of course there have been personnel changes. But not as many as one might expect. People tend to remain in this outfit for a long time. It is said that election to the Board of Directors is a life sentence.

But, all things eventually come to an end, and so we say goodbye to Lyn Puls and Helen Hawkins. These ladies have shared many office duties over the years, Lyn since 2007 and Helen since 1996 in this office, plus several years prior, when the Association "headquarters" consisted of a spare room in the basement and the back of a pickup truck. Lyn has left us to attend to a family health crisis, and has moved to the Front Range. Helen is leaving because, well, 21+ years is enough. Both contributed greatly to the successful operation of this association, and we are grateful for their service.

You will notice, if you pay attention to "Just The Facts" on the back of this page, that Amber McPherson has been chosen to replace Lyn and Helen. Amber brings great skills and a lovely personality to the job, and will continue the tradition of good service to you. It is fitting that Amber's grandparents were among the first half-dozen members of the Association. Being a young lady, Amber should be good for another, oh, say 40 years of service.

Those of you who travel Cedar Mesa Road for any reason will recognize that major changes are also in progress there. Delta County is engaged in a realignment of that road, straightening curves, filling draws, scalping high places, and, incidentally, having a major impact on the USCDWUA pipeline running along it. That pipeline is about 57 years old, is made of galvanized iron, and is undersized. The Board decided that the only sensible thing is to totally replace the line, since much of it would need to be rerouted to get out of the way of the road work. That project is nearly complete. The original 2½-inch diameter rust factory has been replaced with a 6-inch diameter PVC pipe for a distance of about 1.5 miles. As mentioned in the second paragraph, some of our lines are built twice, and could be done a third time in the (hopefully) distant future.

After all, a water company exists in perpetuity. People and pipelines, not so.