



YOUR CONNECTION, YOUR CO-OP,

OUR FUTURE.

34TH ANNUAL MEETING | MARCH 9TH, 2023

WHAT IS OUR MISSION?

**IMPROVING
THE QUALITY OF LIFE
THE COOPERATIVE WAY.**



TEAM WORK



RESPECT



INTEGRITY



INNOVATION



GROWTH



SAFETY

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

MARCH 9, 2023 at 5:30PM

LOCATION: EFFINGHAM EVENT CENTER

ZOOM: WWW.EJWATERCOOP.COM/2023-EJANNUALMEETING

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of members of EJ Water Cooperative, Inc., an Illinois Not-For-Profit Corporation, will be held at the Effingham Event Center in Effingham, Illinois or via Zoom at www.ejwatercoop.com/2023-ejannualmeeting on March 9, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of electing three directors, and for the transaction of such other business as may come before the meeting.

The nominating committee met on January 30, 2023 and nominated the following members for election to the Board of Directors of EJ Water Cooperative, Inc. to be elected at the annual meeting.

- **DISTRICT 1, FOR A 3-YEAR TERM, GAIL GARBE**
- **DISTRICT 2, FOR A 3-YEAR TERM, TBD**
- **DISTRICT 3, FOR A 3-YEAR TERM, JIMMY AYERS**

It is hoped that each member can attend. If, for any reason you are unable, or it is doubtful that you can, please execute and return the enclosed proxy.

CHRIS HARTKE, PRESIDENT
EJ Water Cooperative, Inc.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2023.

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MEMBER
BENEFITS

YOUR CO-OP

EJ members are the owner and heart of the Co-Op. Our members help make it possible for us to bring water and other services to more communities. Over the years we have partnered with communities to provide healthy drinking water, build better infrastructure, and promote growth while keeping their small-town values.

With members in mind, we are constantly re-evaluating the needs and desires of rural communities to provide the best service and solutions for their future. This is **YOUR** Co-Op. Thank you for helping us build EJ over the years and bringing hope and a future to so many others.

THIS YEAR, WE WILL SEE YOU

IN PERSON

MARCH 9, 2023 at 5:30PM
REGISTRATION OPENS AT 4:30PM



LOCATION:

EFFINGHAM EVENT CENTER

1501 W. FAYETTE AVE.
EFFINGHAM, IL 62401



MEETING & SPEAKER:

STARTING AT 5:30PM
MEAL TO FOLLOW



Catered Meal

KIRBY FOODS IGA

Fried Chicken & Pork Loin
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Noodles • Corn • Green Beans
Cole Slaw • Roll • Desserts



Giveaways

10 lucky members

WILL HAVE THE CHANCE TO WIN

FREE WATER

FOR A YEAR!*

Can't join us in-person?

NO PROBLEM, WATCH THE
LIVE-STREAM ON ZOOM!

HOW TO JOIN:

VIDEO CALL:

Visit Meeting Link at:
www.ejwatercoop.com/2023-ejannualmeeting

CALLING IN:

Phone: +1-312-626-6799
Meeting ID: 830 4144 2735
Password: 699471

CHAT WITH US!

If you need further assistance, chat with us at
www.ejwatercoop.com

MEMBERS WHO ATTEND VIRTUALLY ARE ALSO ENTERED
TO WIN THE FREE WATER GIVEAWAY!

*BASED ON AVERAGE WATER BILL WHICH WOULD CREDIT YOUR ACCOUNT \$50/MONTH. BALANCE,
IF ANY, AFTER CREDIT IS APPLIED WILL STILL NEED TO BE PAID BY MEMBER.

Guest Speaker

ANDY
RICHARDSON

**FORMER CHAIRMAN AND CEO
GREELEY AND HANSEN**



Meet
ANDY
RICHARDSON

Andrew W. Richardson is the former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Greeley and Hansen, in his four and half decades with the Firm, Richardson worked on almost every aspect of engineering projects, such as feasibility studies, designs, construction, and start-up commissioning for many major water, water reuse and wastewater treatment programs across the country. He has authored over 70 technical papers and made numerous presentations at national and international water and wastewater conferences. Richardson has been actively involved in many water industry organizations, including serving in various leadership roles on the Board of Directors for eight water industry organizations. He is a past president of the American Water Works Association (AWWA). Richardson has been recognized for his contributions to the water and wastewater industry with several honors through the years including Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Illinois' Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Chapter Honor Member Award from the University's Chi Epsilon Chapter, the University of Illinois Grainger College of Engineering – Alumni Award for Distinguished Service and was inducted into the AWWA Water Industry Hall of Fame. Richardson has BS and MS degrees in Civil Engineering, as well as an MBA in Finance.



THE 2023 PROGRESS REPORT

BILL TEICHMILLER,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

We just closed another exciting year at EJ Water and look forward to another successful year of meeting our members' needs through our Strategic Plan. Not that many years ago, our planning was simple and as the Coop has grown, we've adjusted our planning appropriately. I've reflected a lot recently on how "wild" Delbert Mundt's dream/vision was for EJ Water. Back then, the idea of rural water seemed like a "pipe" dream...something unimaginable. This same kind of thinking happens every time something that is transformational happens. When President John Kennedy said we'd go to the Moon back in the early 1960's, that seemed impossible until it was accomplished in 1969.

Early local thinking told Delbert Mundt in numerous meetings that rural water wasn't possible even though it's had a long history in places, such as rural Iowa, decades earlier. It wasn't until the earliest cheerleaders rallied behind Delbert's dream that the Co-op became a reality.

For the Co-op to grow, it needs two basic kinds of capital: namely, human and financial. Without the dedication of all our past and present board of directors, team members, and key professionals (engineering, legal, legislative, and supply partners) EJ Water never really gets off the ground and becomes the success we all enjoy today. We are thankful for the people who believed in Delbert's dream and supported his vision.

“We are thankful for the people who believed in Delbert's dream and supported his vision.”

In a post COVID era, we continue to face economic inflationary pressures that would be difficult to face if the Co-op did not have its economic scale and base to adequately weather these challenges. While we've grown, our mission is simple; "Improving the Quality of Life the Cooperative Way".

This past year the Co-op helped, managed, and completed the much-anticipated United Regional Water Cooperative (URWC), delivering long-term affordable water to our most northern members in Sangamon, Christian, and Macon counties. URWC also serves several neighboring villages allowing this partnership of some 5,000 customers to be economically feasible truly lifting basic infrastructure for decades in the future.

Two other large-scale projects currently under construction are:

Phase 48 – A new raw water side channel reservoir adjacent to our flagship Delbert D. Mundt Water Treatment facility in rural Beecher City. This forward-thinking project will protect and add safety to our members in a severe drought by readily keeping all our members from a severe drought by providing a standby 100-day supply of water readily available for final treatment.

Phase 57 – Significant large transmission water main upgrades, booster station, and new water tower in rural Pana to support our members in Shelby, Christian, and Montgomery counties.

Last year we took a member survey revealing fascinating results. We asked what of the following was most important: Lowest Rates, Quality of Water, System Reliability, Strong infrastructure to support rural growth, Economic Growth, or Environmental Compliance. Over half the members surveyed ranked Quality of Water as # 1, # 2 System Reliability, followed by # 3 Lowest Rates. This is great feedback and supports our goal to provide excellent service at the most efficient costs to our members.

The Co-op has come a long way serving you, the members, and we meet today and tomorrow's challenges on the shoulders of our earliest founding human capital providers.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you, our members.

Best,

Bill Teichmiller



MEMBER LEARNING CENTER

An improved resource for members.

Have you ever searched the internet for a water related issue? We have updated our member center to make it easy to find the answers to frequent questions asked about water.

Find these topics and more....



WATER TREATMENT



BOIL ORDERS



LOCATING A LEAK

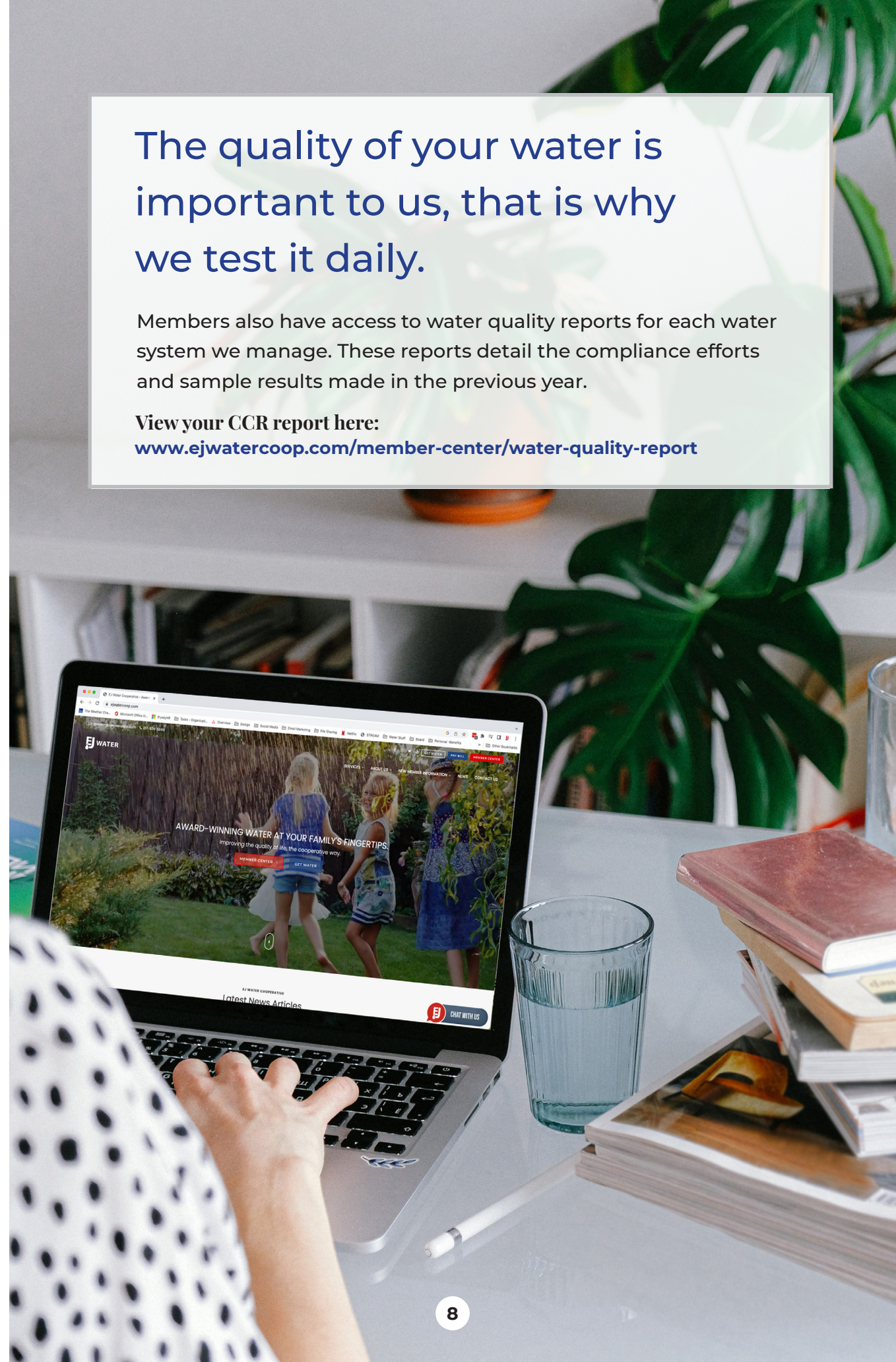
SCAN THE QR CODE TO BROWSE OUR MEMBER LEARNING CENTER OR VISIT WWW.EJWATERCOOP.COM/MEMBER-CENTER/LEARNING-CENTER

The quality of your water is important to us, that is why we test it daily.

Members also have access to water quality reports for each water system we manage. These reports detail the compliance efforts and sample results made in the previous year.

View your CCR report here:

www.ejwatercoop.com/member-center/water-quality-report



PROJECT UPDATES

ACTIVE PROJECTS | PHASES

PHASE 57 | NORTHERN SHELBY & NORTHERN MONTGOMERY COUNTY | CHRISTIAN COUNTY

Added capacity and improve pressure to our Northwest part of our system; cleanup in Spring '23

PHASE 62 | MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Serve and bring EJ Water to our members in Montgomery County service area. This includes 34 miles of transmission main with two 150,000 gallon water towers.

PHASE 48 | 250MG RESERVOIR AT DELBERT D. MUNDT WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Construct a 250MG reservoir to prepare us for any droughts or needs that may come up in the future.

PENDING PROJECTS

PHASES DEPENDENT ON DCEO APPLICATION

PHASE 82 | RICHLAND COUNTY

Serve approximately 30 members in Richland County.

PHASE 84 | WATSON WASTEWATER

Replacing 1 lift station in town and wastewater mains in the Chaparral and East View subdivisions.

PHASE 85 | DEWEY

Running water mains to the Village of Elliot to supply water and better pressure to EJ members in Dewey.

PHASE 86 | VILLAGE OF OWANECO

Replace the entire village's water mains.

PHASE 87 | CITY OF WITT WASTEWATER

Replacing and relining part of the sewer mains.



EJ Water is a proud to be a founding member of United Regional Water Cooperative (URWC). URWC was formed with the sole intent of regionalizing water treatment by like-minded communities that were experiencing the same issues of deteriorating, dilapidating water plants and rising costs. The new water treatment plant is located on the Sangamon River and serves communities located in Macon, Sangamon, Christian, and Logan counties.

We appreciate the strong partnership and want to thank the founding members (communities) for dedicating the last 5 years to making this vision come to life.

FOUNDING MEMBERS

- 🔹 Village of Niantic
- 🔹 Village of Illiopolis
- 🔹 Village of Harristown
- 🔹 Village of Latham
- 🔹 Village of Mt. Auburn
- 🔹 EJ Water Cooperative



Scan this QR code to view the progress on our most recent projects.



WE NEED YOU TO HELP KEEP YOUR WATER SAFE IN 2023

This year the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established a Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) to protect public health and reduce exposure to lead and copper in drinking water. Over the last year many members have also voiced that the quality of water is of highest value to them.



In order to deliver you the safest and highest quality water, we will need your participation.



The EPA is requiring water suppliers to identify residential service line types and encourages removal and replacement of lead service lines to reduce lead exposure.

In order to fulfill the EPA requirements, in 2023, we will be working in conjunction with 120Water an audit to identify any location that may be at risk for lead exposure.



HELP US GAIN FUNDING TO COMPLETE SCHEDULED PROJECTS.

A benefit of being part of the Co-op is the availability of certain grants and loans to help offset the cost of projects to improve your water quality. If you receive an income survey or a request to write a letter about issues you are having, we ask that you participate. This is a requirement to submit for our efforts to receive grants. The information you provide on income surveys is confidential, so we ask for your honesty. If we are unable to gain this information, it impacts the project timeline and overall cost of that project.

WE SAMPLE TO ENSURE YOU ARE RECEIVING THE BEST QUALITY OF WATER.

The EPA requires all water systems to collect routine lead and copper samples. To ensure we have enough sampling sites that meet requirements we are expanding our potential list of sites. If you meet the necessary requirements, you can help us by volunteering to be added to that list.

Volunteer today by using the link below to take a short survey to see if you are eligible.

<https://bit.ly/lead-copper-site>

We are focused on educating the **NEXT GENERATION** on the importance of water.

Over the last few years, we have done this by providing water education materials and resources to surrounding communities. These materials included topics like water, wastewater, and water conservation. With the help of the teachers in each classroom we were able to teach students about how the water cycle works and its importance with natural elements, water conservation, and how to help identify leaks in the home, as well as what happens after you flush and the wastewater process.

It is important to us to bring awareness to our future leaders in hopes that they will become more involved in their communities and influence change in rural America.



EJ BELIEVES IN SUPPORTING OUR FUTURE LOCAL LEADERS.

We are proud to support 5 local counties and their CEO programs. The CEO program immerses high school aged students in real life learning experiences with the opportunity to take risks, manage the results, and learn from the outcomes. It is important to us to encourage entrepreneurship by participating and building up future leaders.



WE GIVE BACK BY OFFERING MONETARY DONATIONS TO HELP DIFFERENT CAUSES.

While teaching about water and providing tools & assistance for surrounding areas is of high importance to us, we also see the value we can bring to communities through monetary donations.

Since the beginning, EJ has always given back when we can. Knowing where we started, it wouldn't have been possible to get to where we

are today without so many people and communities. Today we give back because we want to show that same support to our local communities and organizations. Partnering with CoBank on inputting funds into a foundation has allowed us to donate to new buildings in communities, sponsor community events, and much more.

EJ RECOGNIZES THAT UNEXPECTED EVENTS HAPPEN, WE WILL BE THERE!

In past years we have helped other communities with natural disasters by providing equipment and manpower to help assist in cleanup or sending out mass texts to communicate high priority matters. We also are there during unexpected life events. We have assisted other communities who have had sudden losses to their employees by stepping up to the challenge and assisting with filling that gap on a short term or long term basis.

REMEMBER WHEN...

Quality water wasn't always available to many of our members. Today we don't even think about the struggle to turn on the faucet and having access to clean, safe, quality water.

Did you ever have to worry about any of these problems before you had EJ Water?



Running out of water



Sharing bath water



Losing water anytime you lost power



Hauling water to do daily tasks



Tap water that was unfit to cook with or consume



Having hard water buildup on fixtures

Our member's can remember a time before they had EJ Water and this is what they said:

Karen Lidy

We love not having to haul water and appreciate that we know our water is safe for our family!

Bev Geier

I appreciate EJ Water, because I don't have to load a big water tank on a pickup to haul water just to do laundry. It's nice to just go to the sink for a glass of good water!

Joanie Rauch

I appreciate the quickness in service when we have issues and the clean water we can always count on!

Melissa Miller

I value clean, drinkable water without dirt and rusty residue, and not as hard.

Evelyn Steele

So glad to not have to haul water and put it in the empty well to fill all the livestock tanks. Especially in the winter. Nice to have clean water to drink and cook with.

Brandon Brown

I value clean water! and still having water when the power goes out.

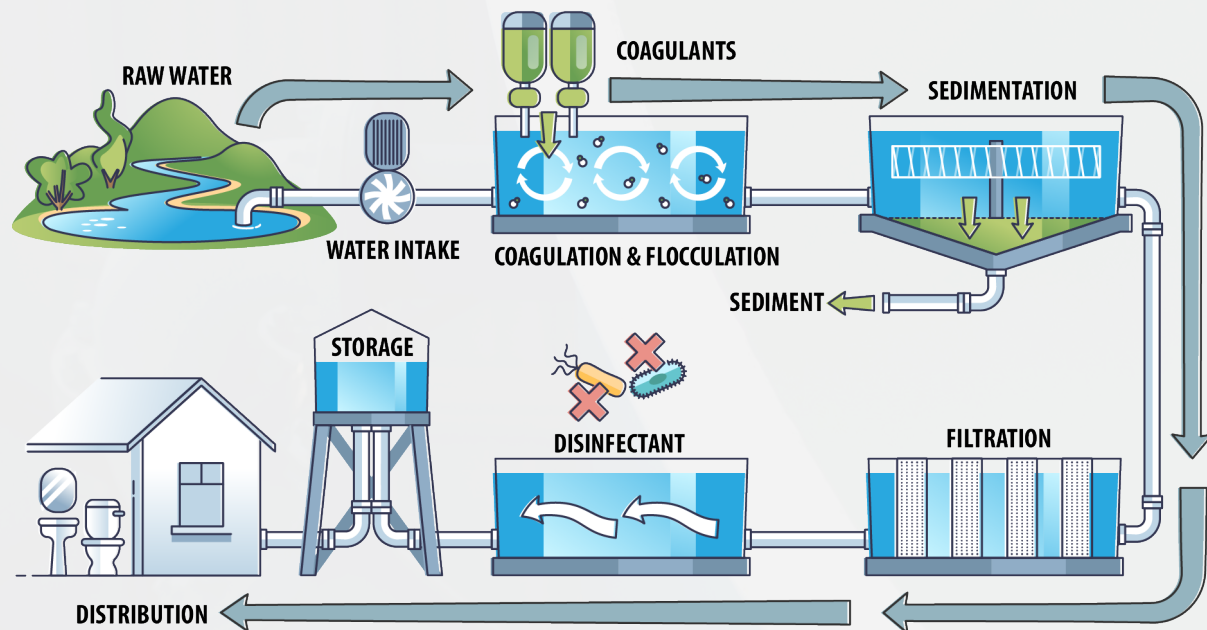
The Quality OF WATER

We monitor and test the sources of your water to make it safe to distribute to our member's homes and businesses.

Watch the 5 minute video of Pat O'Dell, our Chief Water Plant Operator, to learn about the treatment process at our Delbert Mundt Water Treatment Plant.

SCAN THE QR CODE OR USE THIS LINK TO WATCH:

WWW.EJWATERCOOP.COM/MEMBER-CENTER/LEARNING-CENTER/DMWTP



You have asked the questions and we are here to answer! We are excited that so many of our members care about the quality of their water just like we do.



WHY IS FLUORIDE IN THE WATER?

Fluoride occurs naturally in water and is also added to drinking water to keep teeth strong and reduce cavities. We are regulated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) to add small doses of fluoride to the water.



WHAT DO I DO IF MY WATER LOOKS DIFFERENT?

While unappealing, the water is safe to consume. Cloudy water is caused by air in the water lines while discoloration can be due to deposits in your pipes. If you run the water for a short period they should both clear up. Avoid washing light clothing if the water is discolored to ensure it does not effect your clothes.



WHY MIGHT I SUDDENLY EXPERIENCE CHANGE IN WATER PRESSURE?

There is a variety of reasons for water pressure to change. We periodically flush the lines to maintain high quality water to our members. Because of this you may experience a pressure change from time to time, generally you will not notice a difference. If you experience a continued drop in pressure you can always contact us.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FLUSH A WATER MAIN/HYDRANT AND WHY ARE YOU DOING IT?

Main flushing is the process of cleaning the interior of water distribution mains (pipes) by sending a rapid flow of water through the mains. EJ periodically and purposefully flushes to maintain high quality of water.



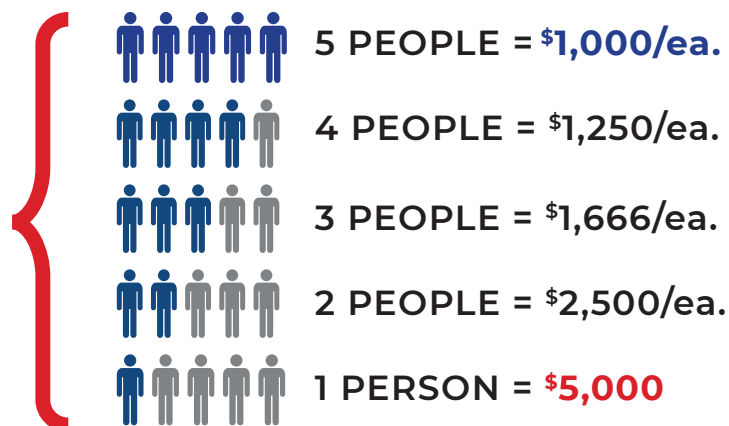
We grow to keep rates **SUSTAINABLE**

As water consumption goes down and costs rise, we must grow the Co-op to spread operations and maintenance expenses out to keep rates sustainable. We are working towards our vision to regionalize services and grow our membership to achieve this goal.

Think of it this way.

A house with **5 bedrooms** costs one person **\$5,000 a month** or it can be **split by adding roommates**. When more people come together, the monthly expenses, maintenance, and unexpected costs have less impact on the individual.

TOGETHER WE CAN REDUCE COSTS



Growing the Co-Op
SPREADS OUT THE
COST OF OPERATIONS
AND MAINTENANCE
TO KEEP RATES
SUSTAINABLE.



These services provide solutions in addition to delivering water and wastewater to communities that help them thrive and grow.

This allows the communities/utilities to be more efficient, save on full-time employee costs, and have access to cutting-edge technology that would be otherwise too costly to implement on their own. Additionally, this helps off-set rising costs for EJ Water members, ensuring long-term affordable rates.

SERVICES

-  CUSTOMER SERVICE
-  BILLING
-  LICENSED WATER OPERATOR
-  LICENSED WASTEWATER OPERATOR
-  WATER LAB
-  CONSTRUCTION & FIELD SERVICE
-  ACCOUNTING / BOOKKEEPING
-  MARKETING

WE PROVIDE SERVICES TO

48

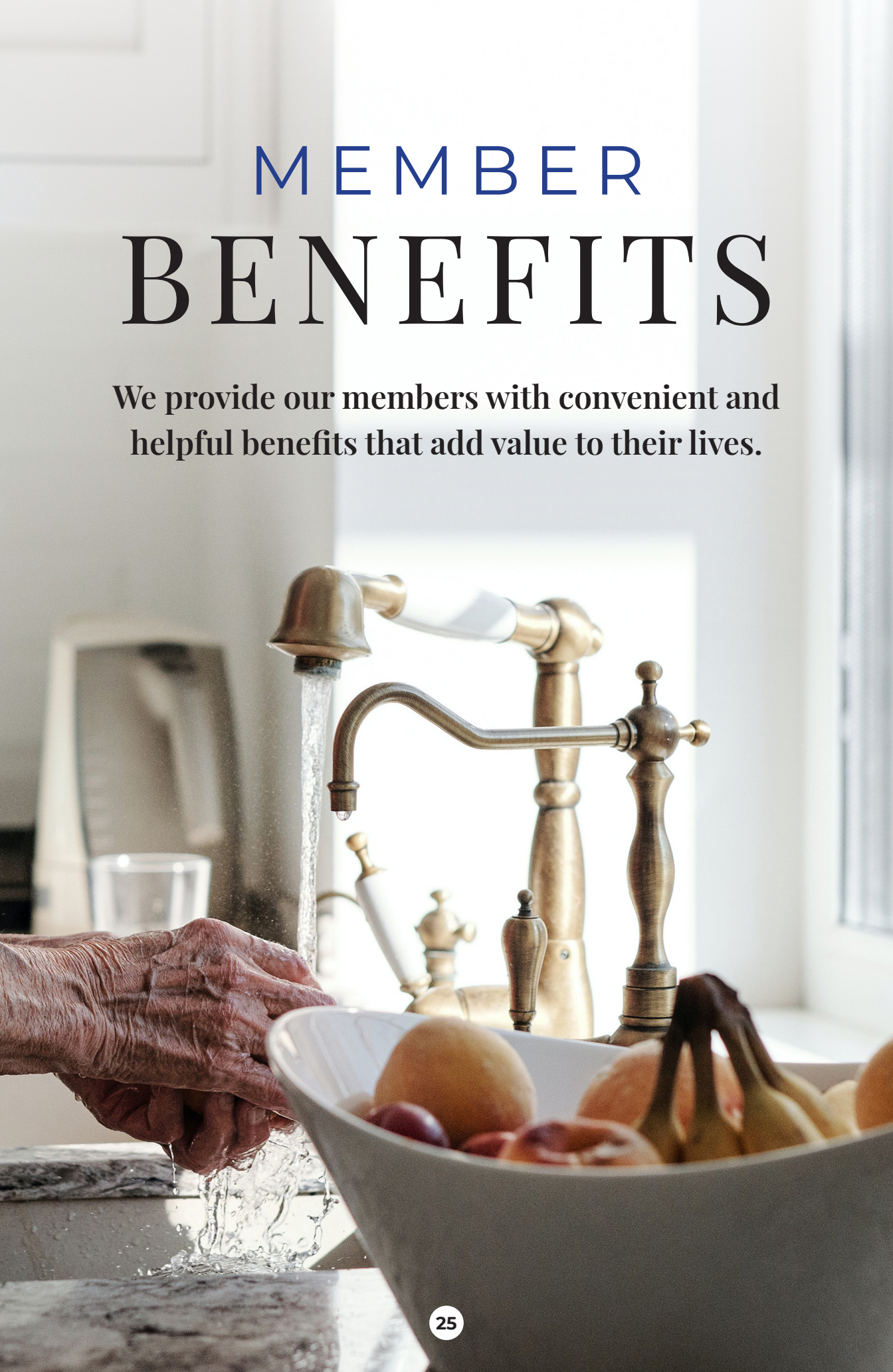
RURAL COMMUNITIES

HELPING THEM THRIVE AND GROW.



MEMBER BENEFITS

We provide our members with convenient and helpful benefits that add value to their lives.



Chat With Us!

Have a question or need an answer quickly? You can chat with us on our website!

In order to serve you better, our local customer service team is available to chat with you Monday through Friday, 8:00AM - 4:00PM. Any after hour messages will be responded to the next business day.

This service allows our members full access to our customer service team with the click of a button. They are able to respond quickly to your questions and concerns, allowing you to get back to what is important in just minutes.



Simply use the **“Chat With Us”** button on the bottom right corner of our website to get the conversation started!

TEXT UPDATES

Communicating well with our members is of high importance and priority. We work hard to notify you as soon as possible by text for service interruptions, flushing lines, boil orders, and billing updates.

No matter how you receive your bill, you can stay up-to-date on your water service notifications via text.

READY TO STAY IN THE LOOP?

Sign up at: www.bit.ly/ejwtext



DON'T FORGET ABOUT OUR EASY, STRESS FREE ACH PAYMENT OPTION

WE HAVE ADDED A NEW PHONE FEATURE FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

This feature provides enhanced security during the payment process as well as routes your call appropriately. We also offer translator services if a member needs assistance. Call our office line at 217-925-5566 and follow the prompts.

It is of high importance to give our members the best customer service experience 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.



WHY SIGN UP?

- **No** processing or late **fees**.
- **Secure** payment directly from checking.
- **Automated** monthly payments, no remembering to call and pay.
- **Choose** your payment process date.

SIGN UP: www.ejwatercoop.com/ach

AS ALWAYS YOU CAN UTILIZE OUR OTHER PAYMENT OPTIONS



Debit/Credit Card - 24/7 by calling our office and pressing 2 or logging into your account. (\$1.95 processing fee)

PAY ONLINE: www.ejbilling.com

Echeck - 24/7 by calling our office and pressing 2. (\$.50 processing fee)



Mail in your payment to our office or leave it in the drop box outside.

AIR EVAC

Never worry about receiving life-saving emergency care when you need it.



HOW IT WORKS:



Sign Up for Air Evac membership and automatically pay the \$5 fee with your water bill.



In the event you are flown by Air Evac Lifeteam for a life or limb-threatening emergency, they will work with your benefits provider to secure payment for your flight. Whatever your benefits provider pays will be considered payment in full.

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP FEES ADDED TO YOUR EJ WATER BILL:

\$5/MO
PER HOUSEHOLD

OR

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES:

One time annual payment submitted directly to AEL.
\$55 per household



Your membership is also valid in over 200 service locations in 28 states!

WATER SERVICE LINE PROTECTION PROGRAM

EJ Water offers a member-exclusive service that provides peace of mind and protection with water loss coverage for only **\$3.95/month**.

WHAT IS COVERED?



COST OF WATER LOSS DUE TO A LEAK



REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT



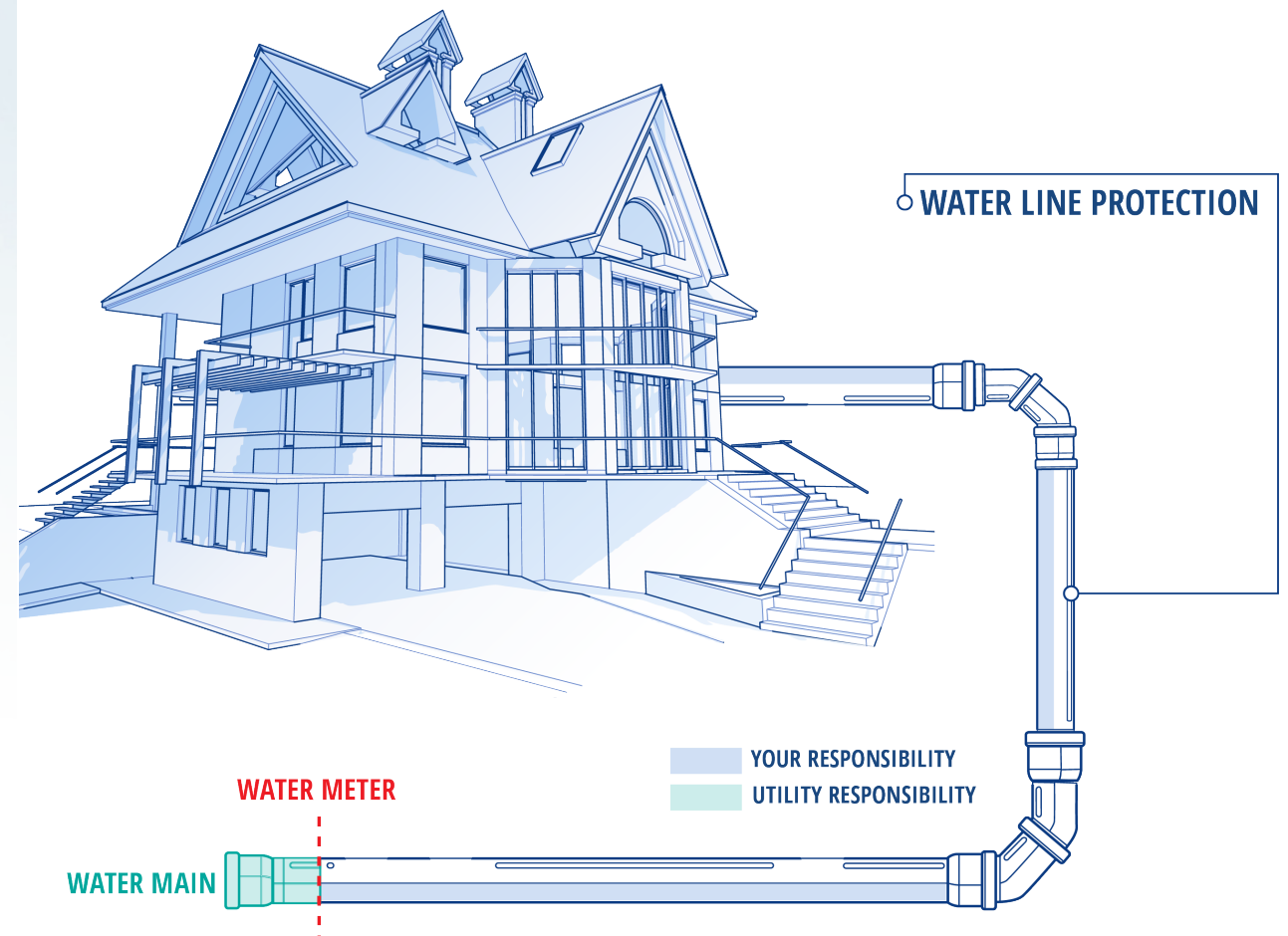
LEAK COVERAGE



LEAK UP TO 2 FT FROM THE FOUNDATION



LEAKS UP TO 2 FT FROM AN OUTSIDE HYDRANT



FOR FULL DETAILS ON THE PROGRAM AND/OR TO OPT-OUT, VISIT:
www.ejwatercoop.com/wslpp-ej



REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee of EJ Water Cooperative, Inc. met on January 30, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at the offices of EJ Water Cooperative, Inc. in Dieterich, Illinois. In attendance at the meeting were the following members of the Nominating Committee:

Randy Brooks	Louise Lee *
Brian Ochs	Scott Wohltman *
William Weber *	Patrick Finley
Dean McWard *	Judy Verdeyen *
Bill Jansen	

*Attended by telephone conference.

Upon a motion by William Weber, seconded by Randy Brooks, Brian Ochs was elected Chairman of the meeting. Upon a motion by Bill Jansen, seconded by Randy Brooks, Patrick Finley was elected Secretary of the meeting.

The members of the Committee were advised that it was their duty to present a slate of nominees for the three Board of Director positions to be voted on at the annual meeting of members to be held on March 9, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at the Effingham Event Center 1501 West Fayette Avenue, Effingham, Illinois.

Upon a motion by Scott Wohltman, seconded by Bill Jansen, the Committee, by a vote of 9 - 0, nominated Gail Garbe as the District 1 representative for a three year term.

Upon a motion by Patrick Finley, seconded by William Weber, the Committee, by a vote of 9 - 0, nominated Jeff Wilson as the District 2 representative for a three year term.

Upon a motion by Louise Lee, seconded by Judy Verdeyen, the Committee, by a vote of 9 - 0, nominated Jimmy Ayers as the District 3 representative for a three year term.

Upon a motion by Bill Jansen, seconded by Louise Lee, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:41 p.m.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

PATRICK FINLEY,
SECRETARY NOMINATING COMMITTEE

EJ WATER COOPERATIVE, INC.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

The 33rd Annual Meeting of EJ Water Cooperative, Inc. was held virtually on March 10, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at the EJ Water office. This was the second virtually held meeting due to COVID-19 precautions. President Chris Hartke called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

Chris Hartke then recognized veterans and thanked them for their service and commitment to our country and our safety. Bill Teichmiller then took the time to explain how to navigate through the meeting using Zoom. He also informed the membership that everyone on the Zoom call would be registered to win free water for a year.

CEO REPORT

Bill Teichmiller began by welcoming everyone to the 33rd Annual Meeting. He mentioned United Regional Water Cooperative, a project that has been ongoing for the past couple of years. He announced it will be coming online later this year serving the northern portions of the service area. URWC is partnering with numerous area villages by constructing a state-of-the-art water treatment facility that individually no one could afford to build.

Bill then stated that several communities have joined the EJ Water coop this past year. He welcomed Coalton, Owaneco, Dewey, Montrose, and Watson to the coop family.

The On-the-Line Program, is a discounted membership to \$500 for people on a well but have access to EJ Water. This would serve more members and help from an economic standpoint to make rates more affordable.

Some funding is coming through the recent administration, so EJ is trying to obtain additional grant funding that would expedite serving even more members.

He then discussed the new Water Service Line Protection Program. This is a program our members have requested for quite some time. This will be implemented over time. A group of about 120 members provided valuable feedback to the focus group which allowed EJ to create the program. It is an automatic opt-in program, so if there is no interest, the member will need to call the office to opt out.

Bill closed his remarks by stating it has been a highly successful year and introduced President Chris Hartke to move forward with his report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Chris Hartke began by stating that in 2021 everyone continued to navigate through the challenges of COVID-19 and its effects on the economy, both nationally and locally. The EJ staff has continued to adjust and adapt to all these challenges. The Board of Directors has also worked to advance the cooperative mission of Improving the Quality of Life the Cooperative Way. The leadership team has continued to present new opportunities to benefit the coop. The annual report highlighted many details of the co-op's growth and successes in the past year. By partnering with rural communities, new and existing members have gained security, reliability, and confidence in these services today and in the future.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Diane Aherin presented the Treasurer's Report for the year ending September 30, 2021.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

A fireside chat followed with CEO Bill Teichmiller and COO David St. Pierre. David previously worked for very large cities and came to EJ Water after retiring. David began by stating EJ Water has always inspired him. EJ's co-op structure of taking the idea of "together we're stronger," working together with the mission of working together the cooperative way is such a good model for the US rural water. He stressed that EJ is working at delivering excellent quality and service, but at the same time keeping water rates low. Bill then spoke about what goes into determining water rates. The main categories are (1) debt service, (2) operations and maintenance, and (3) financial and maintenance reserves. Also, when an area is densely populated, it just makes things more affordable. David then remarked that EJ Water shows up to communities to help them. He then brought up the various services that EJ offers to small communities such as billing, providing financial services, repairs, etc. The model is a very strong mission of "how can we help you?" Bill noted that EJ also offers wastewater assistance which is a much-needed service. One of the main concerns of the Board of Directors is how to keep rates affordable.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Bill introduced Secretary Gail Garbe who reported that a total of 223 members were present in person via Zoom, in addition to 33 proxies, exceeding the bylaws requirement for a quorum.

Gail then read the Proof of Mailing Notice for the 33rd Annual Meeting.

Attorney Tracy Willenborg then presided over the reading of the 2021 minutes. Tracy requested a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Upon a motion by Michael Loveless, seconded by Bill Brown, the membership unanimously voted to dispense with reading the 2021 annual meeting minutes.

Tracy Willenborg presided over the election of directors. In lieu of reading the Nominating Committee minutes, Tracy requested approval to dispense with the reading of the Nominating Committee meeting minutes. Upon a motion by Bob Brown, seconded by Michael Loveless, the membership unanimously voted to dispense with the reading of the Nominating Committee minutes. Nominations for the board of directors may be made from the floor. She then asked if there were nominations, hearing none, a motion was made by Vicki Brumleve, seconded by Bill Brown to close nominations. The nominees designated were District 1, Diane Aherin; District 2, Jason Warfel; District 3, Chuck Smedley. Tracy requested a motion that the nominees be elected by acclamation and the Secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for said three nominees. Upon a motion by Michael Loveless, seconded by Kelsey Locke, the membership voted unanimously to elect the three nominees by acclamation.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

President Chris Hartke presented Bill Teichmiller with a service award for 20 years. Bill and Chris then presented service awards to the following individuals:

- Board Director Gail Garbe, 10 years
- Board of Director Diane Aherin, 20 years

Bill then noted that free water for a year will be given to 10 members. Members should have registered for prizes at the link provided at the beginning of and throughout the meeting. The link was closed to ensure only meeting participants registered. Winners of the giveaway will be contacted and announced on both social media and EJ Water's website.

Upon a motion by Vicki Brumleve, seconded by Bill Brown, the membership voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

HOW TO FILL OUT A PROXY

YOU ONLY NEED TO FILL OUT THE PROXY IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING.

To fill out the proxy appropriately:

- 1** Appoint two members or board members attending the event to vote for you in the event that a vote would take place.
(maximum of 3 votes per member or board member)
- 2** Check one box to vote For, Against, or Abstain from voting for each candidate or issue up for vote.
- 3** Date and sign your name on the bottom of the proxy card.
- 4** Verify your proxy is filled out correctly.
- 5** Return it to our office by March 9th, 2023.

What makes a proxy invalid:

- Not listing another member/board member to vote for you.
- Not checking the boxes to vote
- Not signing and dating your proxy

If one or all of these items are not done correctly the proxy becomes invalid and is not able to be used.

Proxy
Submissions

FILL OUT THE PROXY CORRECTLY
& RETURN IT TO OUR OFFICE BY
MARCH 9TH, TO BE ENTERED TO WIN

**FREE WATER
FOR A YEAR!***

HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING YOUR PROXY?
Visit www.ejwatercoop.com to chat with us or call or office at 217-925-5566

Invalid proxies will not be eligible to enter the giveaway.
3 proxy submission winners will be chosen to win.



CONNECT WITH US

ON SOCIAL MEDIA



To keep up with our team, special member event/giveaways, announcements and more...

Join us!

PROXY

EJ WATER COOPERATIVE, INC., AN ILLINOIS NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION

The undersigned member of EJ WATER COOPERATIVE, INC. (hereinafter called the "Cooperative") hereby constitutes and appoints _____ and _____, or either of them, as the attorney-in-proxy of the undersigned, with the full power of substitution, for and in the name and stead of the undersigned to attend the Annual Meeting of Members to be held at Effingham Event Center or via Zoom at www.ejwatercoop.com/2023-ejannualmeeting on March 9, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. and any adjournment or postponement thereof and thereat to vote all shares of stock of the Cooperative held by the undersigned which the undersigned would be entitled to vote if personally present with respect to the matters set forth below.

This Proxy, when properly executed, will be voted in the manner directed herein by the undersigned. If no direction is made, the share(s) will be voted "FOR" the election of the listed nominees for board of director. This Proxy also delegates discretionary authority to vote with respect to any other business which may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

1. Election of Three (3) Directors:

A. To re-elect Gail Garbe (District 1) to the Board of Directors:

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN

B. To re-elect TBD (District 2) to the Board of Directors:

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN

C. To re-elect Jimmy Ayers (District 3) to the Board of Directors:

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN

THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT OF THE NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING AND PROXY STATEMENT.

Dated: _____

*PLEASE SIGN, DATE AND RETURN THIS PROXY. Note: Please sign exactly as name(s) appear in address. When signing as attorney-in-fact, executor, administrator, trustee, or guardian, please add your titles as such. If the member is a corporation, please sign in full corporate name by duly authorized officer(s) and affix the corporate seal.

EJ Water Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 8
Dieterich, IL 62424

PRESRT STD
U S POSTAGE
PAID
SPRINGFIELD, IL
PERMIT NO 609

