



# FLOWING **FORWARD**

Strengthening Today,  
Securing Tomorrow

JOIN US FOR THE  
**37TH ANNUAL MEETING**



March 12, 2026



5:30 PM



Effingham Event Center

# OUR COMMITMENT

Provide healthy drinking water to you and your family.

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## TOP

# 3

**PRIORITIES**  
EXPRESSED  
BY MEMBERS

1.

Quality  
Water



2.

System  
Reliability



3.

Affordable  
Rates



## 2026 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Served 16 members in Richland County on phase 82.
- Addition of a High Service Pump to the Delbert Mundt Water Treatment Plant.
- Upgrades to the Strasburg, Montrose and Spring Point Water Towers.
- Completion of the Operations and Maintenance Facility.

# NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

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## RESERVOIR OF PROGRESS

A Year of Growth and Achievement



**March 12, 2026**



**4:30 PM** - Registration | **5:30 PM** - Meeting



**Effingham Event Center**

1501 W Fayette Ave.  
Effingham, IL 62401



**For more info visit:**

[ejwatercoop.com/annualmeeting](http://ejwatercoop.com/annualmeeting)

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 Events Center in Effingham, Illinois on March 12, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. It is hoped that each member can attend.

Dated this 10th day of February, 2026.

Jason Warfel, President  
EJ Water Cooperative, Inc.

# THE 2026 PROGRESS REPORT

This year marks our 37th Annual Members Meeting, and it's always a good opportunity to pause for a moment and reflect on where we've been and where we're headed. When this cooperative was formed nearly four decades ago, the mission was simple—bring safe, reliable water service to rural areas that otherwise wouldn't have had access to it. That mission hasn't changed. What has changed is the environment we operate in and the challenges that come with maintaining and growing a rural water system.

Like most of you have experienced in your own homes and businesses, costs continue to rise across the board. Whether it's materials, equipment, energy, or everyday operational expenses, the cost to operate and maintain infrastructure continues to increase year after year. For a rural water system like ours—with an average of four customers per mile—those costs add can up quickly if we're not paying attention to them.

## **Reducing Costs & Increasing Efficiency**

One example of how we're addressing that is something the Co-op will be implementing: postage and billing fees for members who receive paper statements. Mailing paper bills costs the Co-op about \$11,000 every month, and we noticed that many members were receiving both a paper bill and an electronic statement at the same time. By implementing a fee for paper statements, we're simply making sure the



Bill Teichmiller, *CEO*

members who choose that service are the ones covering that cost, rather than spreading it across the entire membership.

This change has also encouraged more members to transition to electronic billing, which helps reduce administrative costs through more efficiently and more environmentally friendly. These types of operational adjustments may seem small on the surface, but when you add them together they make a meaningful difference in helping us manage expenses while continuing to invest in the system.

Another area we continue to see improvement is in our operational efficiency. Total fleet mileage decreased 61,408 miles or 10.23% from last year to a staggering 538,818 miles. That represents a significant reduction of 1,428 hours on the road, fuel, maintenance cost while still maintaining the same level of high service our members expect. Our team continues to focus on finding ways to operate smarter and more efficiently while keeping reliability and service at the forefront.

### **Strategic Plan – Progress Update**

The Board of Directors and Leadership Team continue holding annual strategic planning sessions to formalize and maintain a long-term plan that serves as our roadmap moving forward.

One of the most important challenges we faced late summer and early fall of 2025 was a moderate to severe drought across our service area. This event challenged our rural water systems resiliency in a way that hasn't happened since 2012.

Thankfully, the new 250-million-gallon reservoir recently built at the Delbert Mundt Water Treatment Plant met the challenge by providing uninterrupted raw water supply during a two-month period we didn't have any river water available. This investment in long-term water supply reliability proved its value very quickly and reinforces the importance of forward-thinking infrastructure planning.

Our capital projects remain focused on reliability, growth, and long-term service capacity for our members.

## **Phase 76 – Delbert Mundt Water Treatment Plant Expansion**

The original plant built in 2010 reached capacity after 15 years of service. The ongoing 3 phase expansion with blended funding sources will maximize grant funding thereby reducing debt service thus keeping water rates as affordable as possible. Upon completion, this will allow the Coop to improve treatment capacity, reliability, and provide process redundancy to the system.

A key milestone this past year was the completion of the first Phase 76-1, which was made possible through funding from an Illinois RIPI grant constructed two clarifiers, recarbonation, head tank, and associated foundation work. The next Phase, 76-2 will install additional lime beds, 2-million-gallon ground storage tank, and clear wells and the final Phase, 76-3 will complete the plant expansion.

This critical investment helps position the Coop to meet growing regional water demands for the foreseeable future while managing capital costs responsibly.

## **Phase 91 – Water System Improvements (Completed)**

Phase 91 was successfully completed and included several major system improvements:

- Installation of a High Service Pump Room at the Delbert Mundt Water Treatment Plant to support north and westward service areas
- Refurbishment of the Strasburg elevated water tower
- Owaneco (Christian County) water distribution replacement and upgrades
- Richland County rural water distribution expansion to serve previously unserved members.
- Construction of a 100,000-gallon elevated water tower in Coalton (Montgomery County) members

These improvements strengthen system reliability, improve water pressure and storage, and expand access to safe and reliable water service.

## **Wastewater Projects**

Construction continues on Phase 1 Wastewater Improvements, which include:

- **Watson (Effingham County)** sewer lining and refurbishing of the collection system
- **Witt (Montgomery County)** sewer lining and refurbishing of the collection system

These projects help maintain system integrity, reduce inflow and infiltration, and extend the life of existing infrastructure.

Looking ahead, EJ Water will continue focusing on system reliability, responsible growth, and maintaining the high level of service our members expect. Strategic partnerships, infrastructure investment, and operational efficiency will remain key priorities.

Lastly, the Cooperative is investing in our human capital. As we face both current and future challenges, it is essential that our team continues to learn and grow in order to navigate the ever-changing landscape of regulatory compliance and the management of system assets approaching \$200 million. To support this effort, we currently have 12 employees participating in certification programs, 3 enrolled in junior college programs, 1 pursuing undergraduate degrees, and 1 enrolled in an MBA program. These investments are critical to ensuring we can effectively incorporate new technologies, strengthen our asset management practices, and meet the growing demands placed on the Cooperative.

We remain committed to protecting water quality, maintaining dependable service, and managing costs responsibly for our membership.

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

Best,  
Bill Teichmiller

*Bill Teichmiller*



# PROJECT TIMELINE



**Phase 91**  
**Various Construction  
Improvement Projects**  
Completed 2024 - 2025,  
Anticipated Completion 2026



**Phase 76-2**  
**Delbert Mundt Water  
Treatment Plant Expansion**  
Anticipated Completion  
December 2026



**Phase 76-3**  
**Delbert Mundt Water  
Treatment Plant Expansion**  
Anticipated Completion 2028



**Phase 76-1**  
**Delbert Mundt Water  
Treatment Plant Expansion**  
Completed February 2026



**Phase 1**  
**Watson and Witt Wastewater  
System Improvements**  
Anticipated Completion  
April 2026



**Phase 96**  
**Dewey Water System  
connection to Fischer**  
Anticipated Completion 2027



## YOUR CO-OP

PROVIDING **HEALTHY DRINKING WATER** TO NEARLY

**100,000 PEOPLE**

THROUGHOUT

**19 ILLINOIS COUNTIES**

## THANK YOU!

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.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## DISTRICT 1



**DIANE AHERIN**  
DIRECTOR



**CHRIS HARTKE**  
DIRECTOR



**GAIL GARBE**  
SECRETARY

## DISTRICT 2



**JASON WARFEL**  
PRESIDENT



**MIKE HALL**  
VICE PRESIDENT



**JEFF WILSON**  
TREASURER

## DISTRICT 3



**JIMMY AYERS**  
DIRECTOR



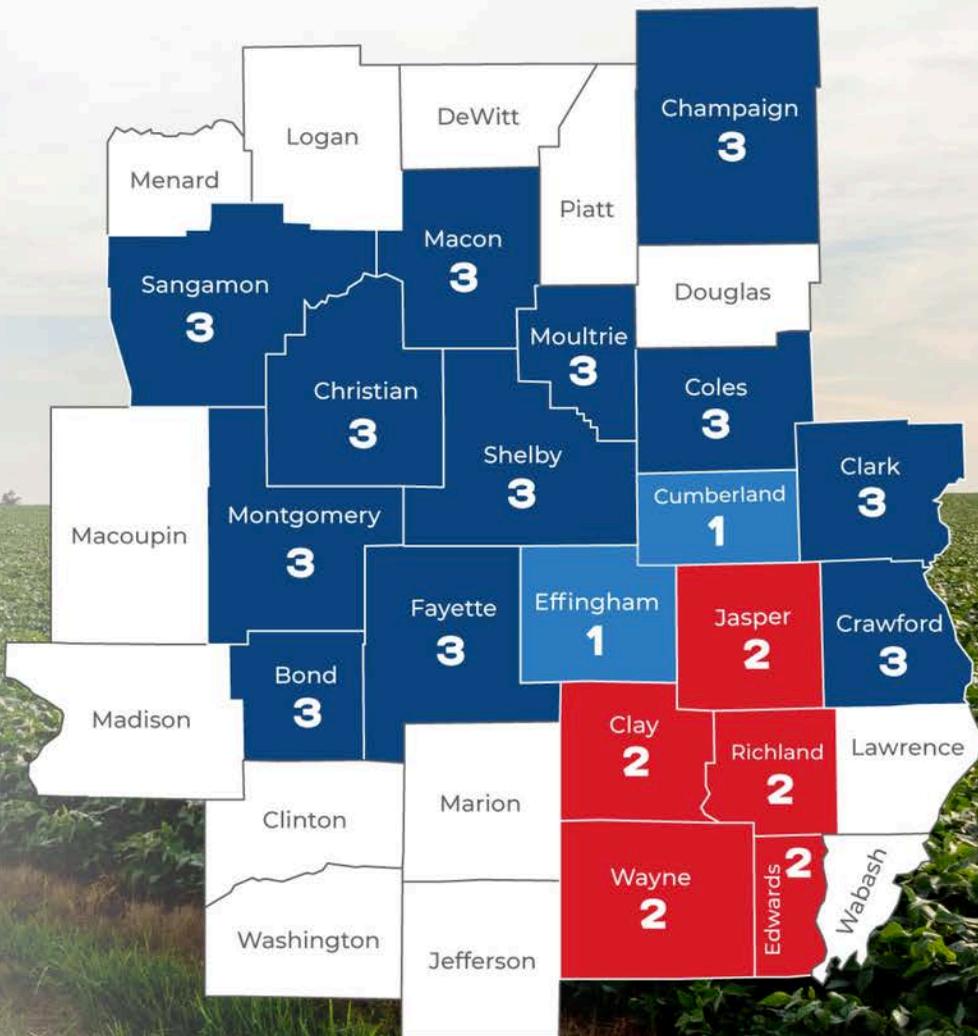
**JOHN RAPP**  
DIRECTOR



**GARRY MORRISON**  
DIRECTOR



# DISTRICTS



# REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee of EJ Water Cooperative, Inc. met on December 4, 2025, at 6:00 PM at the offices of EJ Water Cooperative, Inc. in Dieterich, Illinois. In attendance at the meeting were the following members of the Nominating Committee:

Judy Verdeyen*	Randy Rusk*
Randy Brooks*	Bryan Cox
AC Pickens	Louise Lee*
Bill Jansen	Brian Bohnoff
<del>Jason Anderson</del>	

\*Attended by telephone conference

(Strike through any absentees, and insert name(s) below:)

Absent was:

Jason Anderson

Upon a motion by Bill Jansen, seconded by Brian Cox, AC Pickens was elected Chairman of the meeting. Upon a motion by Brian Bohnoff, seconded by Bryan Cox, Bill Jansen was elected Secretary of the meeting.

The members of the Committee were advised of their duties including the duties to determine the accuracy and authenticity of such petitions, establish and approve the manner of Member registration and voting by ballot for contested positions, count ballots and other possible responsibilities at a future meeting, as well as elect director(s) by acclamation if any position is uncontested, to count said ballots. The winners for the three Board of Director positions shall be announced at the annual meeting of members to be held on March 12, 2026 at 5:30 PM at the Effingham Event Center 1501 West Fayette Avenue, Effingham, Illinois.

The members determined that the Petitions field by Gail Garbe, Jeff Wilson, and Jimmy Ayers were accurate and authentic.

Upon a motion by Brian Bohnhoff, seconded by Bill Jansen, the Committee, by a vote of 8-0, elected by acclamation Gail Garbe as District 1 representative for a three-year term.

Upon a motion by Bryan Cox, seconded by Randy Rusk, the Committee, by a vote of 8-0, elected Jeff Wilson as District 2 representative for a three-year term.

Upon a motion by Louise Lee, seconded by Judy Verdeyen, the Committee, by a vote of 8-0, elected by acclamation Jimmy Ayers as a District 3 representative for a three-year term.

Upon a motion by Randy Rusk, seconded by Bryan Cox, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:13 p.m.

Dated this 4th Day of December, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,



Bill Jansen, Secretary  
Nomination Committee



# MINUTES OF **ANNUAL MEETING**

*The 36th Annual Meeting of EJ Water Cooperative, Inc. was held in person on March 13, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at the Effingham Event Center. President Jason Warfel called the meeting to order followed by the National Anthem sung by Annabelle Bruels and the invocation was then given by Jeff Wilson.*

At this time, all veterans in attendance were recognized and a small gift was presented to each one. President Warfel called for a moment of silence to recognize past board members and employees who are no longer with us.

President Warfel reviewed housekeeping items. President Warfel introduced Vince Fisher as Sergeant in Arms for the evening.

President Warfel introduced Secretary Gail Garbe who reported that a total of 117 members were present in person, exceeding the bylaws requirement for a quorum.

President Warfel motion to amend 2025 meeting agenda to include a Member's section comments under old business and before new business. PB Finley, Jim Perry

President Warfel reviewed the Rules of the Day with the members.

President Warfel then read the Proof of Mailing Notice for the 36th Annual Meeting.

President Warfel then presided over the reading of the 2024 minutes. President Warfel requested a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Upon a motion by Charles Bishop, seconded by Louis Ochs, the membership voted to dispense with reading the 2024 annual meeting minutes.

## **PRESENTATION OF REPORTS**

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Jeff Wilson presented the Treasurer's Report for the year ending September 30, 2024. Wilson noted that EJ now has the past financial audits on the new website. Wilson noted that revenue for the Co-op last year was \$17,748,430, expenses were \$15,272,233 making the net total \$2,476,198. Cash, Savings, and Certificates of Deposit as of September 30, 2024 totaled \$5,839,131.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Warfel then presented his president's report. President Warfel thanked everyone for being there and also thanked the staff that helped make the evening possible. He noted that the annual meeting theme this year was Reservoir of Progress, noting this describes something that holds potential for growth and development. He highlighted how the Co-op has shown its ability to grow and develop over the last 36 years, coming from humble beginnings and now providing service to 100,000 people in 19 counties. He ensured the board and employees are committed to providing quality drinking water in a reliable and dependable manner. He noted that EJ continues to test above the EPA standards within a certified water lab with qualified technicians to ensure quality. He pointed out that for reliability the Co-op built a 250-million-gallon reservoir at our Delbert Mundt Water Treatment Plant last year and that this coming year members will see more system improvements including expansion of the DMWTP. President Warfel noted that EJ provides quality water at an affordable price for its members and the rate is less than one penny per gallon for water consumed and that even with the rate increases that have been necessary, water bills are still well below the Consumer Price Index increases. He ended by mentioning that the Co-op is strong and thriving because of the members and dedicated employees who have dreamed, risked and worked to build the Co-op over the past 36 years and encouraged everyone to continue to be a Reservoir of Progress for years to come.

## CEO REPORT

Bill Teichmiller began by welcoming everyone to the 36th Annual Meeting. He expressed his gratitude to the members for their faith in the Board of Directors and the Leadership Team. He then recognized the board members and the staff. He walked the membership through the history of EJ Water, providing some history on the Co-op, and that EJ stands for Effingham and Jasper counties which are the original counties EJ served. He noted that the Board has been working on purposeful growth and gave the example of why rural water is more expensive than municipal water and why rural water bills are more expensive because of the lack of density. He referenced a graph showing EJ's water bills compared to what the CPI Increase has been over the last 20 years, noting EJ's bills are approximately \$16 lower than CPI. He also mentioned another question he always gets is "do we have enough water?" He noted that EJ has water in numerous water sheds and is currently working on a project that will increase capacity at the Delbert Mundt Water Treatment Plant.

Bill then provided information on the various projects EJ has worked on since last year's meeting. They are:

- Elevated water tower in the Village of Coalton
- Upgrading water mains and meters in Owaneco
- Richland County water main improvements to complete the 3rd phase of RE Water
- DMWTP High Service Pump Room expansion

Bill noted that we secured \$2M in RIPI funding to help with the plant expansion project.

Bill thanked all the members, Board members and recognized the great partnerships EJ has with Milano & Grunloh, and Taylor Law Offices. He thanked all the participants of today's meeting including Annabelle Bruels, Jeff Wilson, Effingham Event Center, & Kirby Foods. He also recognized the relationship EJ has with local banks for taking a risk on EJ including Dieterich Bank, Peoples State Bank, Midland States Bank, Clay County Bank, and the First State Bank of Beecher City. He also recognized EJ's relationships with other municipalities and counties. He thanked his wife for her support and then concluded by stating it is an honor and a privilege to serve all the EJ Water members. Thank you for helping us to succeed.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

President Warfel presided over the election of directors. In lieu of reading the Nominating Committee minutes, President Warfel requested approval to dispense with the reading of the Nominating Committee meeting minutes. Upon a motion by Glen Huber, seconded by Jim Perry, the membership unanimously voted to dispense with the reading of the Nominating Committee minutes and approving them.

President Warfel stated the nominations designated by the Committee were District 1 Diane Aherin, District 2 Jason Warfel, District 3 Vacant. President Warfel then introduced the rest of the Board members, and the district they represent: Along with Diane Aherin in District 1 – Gail Garbe, Chris Hartke, District 2 – Mike Hall, Jeff Wilson and himself, District 3 – Chuck Smedley, Garry Morrison and Jimmy Ayers.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

## **MEMBER COMMENTS**

Cody Heer made member comments and thanked Bill stating maybe bills can come down because there are no loans. He thanked everyone for the water which is always running. He noted he came here two years ago regarding fluoride in the water. He noted the surgeon general of Florida has put out guidance saying fluoride should not be put in water. He noted there is no dosage control because people drink water at all volumes and that it also can get in your skin. He noted that EJ is paying \$600,000 for chemicals and questioned if a percentage that is used to buy fluoride could be used for a lawsuit. He plans to make a motion during the New Business portion of the meeting. No other member comments.

## NEW BUSINESS

Cody Heer stood up and said he would like to make a motion, noting that in 2019 the members voted to allow the Board to change the by-laws and not the members. He noted that the requirements have been changed to become a board member as well. President Warfel asked him to read the Motion – “To revert to the EJ Water By-laws before the members gave up the right to change the by-laws and no version of those by-laws would stand.” President Warfel noted that the Motion to amend the bylaws is out of order because it would violate Section 2., Article V of EJ’s Bylaws and provisions of the Illinois General Not for Profit Act which vests the authority to manage the affairs and exercise all of the powers of the corporation by or under the direction of the Board of Directors. Mr. Heer appealed based on Illinois Law. President Warfel ruled the appeal out of order Pursuant to Roberts Rules of Order, and noted the decision to rule the motion out of order is unappealable for the reasons just stated.

## PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Bill Teichmiller and President Warfel presented service awards to the following individuals:

- Jared Mayhaus – 10 years
- Jared Miller – 10 years
- Stephanie Westendorf – 20 years
- Chuck Smedley – Retiring Board member 13 years at EJ 6 at LP

Bill then thanked PB Finley and Monte VanDyke who were in attendance at the meeting for their past service on the Board and had the audience give them a round of applause.

Bill and Jason then awarded the free water for a year to 20 members, and they were:

- Anthony Stuckey
- Cathy Jo Waltz Gosnell
- Charles Bridges
- Donna Waitkus
- Hans Kollinger
- Jeff & Janet Schultz
- John and Donna Spannagel
- Arthur Hewing
- Leonard Kocher
- Lois Dietrich
- Stephen Wells
- Laquita Campbell
- Tom & Linda Lidy
- Ruth Ellen Hawn
- Benjamin Ochs
- William Webster
- Dale Stremming
- David & Darlene Burgener
- Marie Wagner
- Doug & Laura Kocher

President Warfel requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon a motion by Lori Haack, seconded by Vicky Brumleve, the membership voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:29 p.m.

# EJ CO-OP+

## OUR SERVICES

These services provide solutions in addition to delivering water and wastewater to communities that help them thrive and grow. Click the link to learn more about each service we offer!

### WHOLESALE WATER

LEARN MORE



### WASTEWATER SERVICES

LEARN MORE



### WATER LAB

LEARN MORE



### CONTRACT SERVICES

LEARN MORE





# WASTEWATER SERVICES



## WHY CHOOSE EJ WASTEWATER?

- ✓ EJ serves as a liaison between the community IEPA in instances of noncompliance, agency questions and on-site inspections.
- ✓ EJ provides wastewater sampling/analysis of on-site required tests like pH and Dissolved Oxygen
- ✓ Future plans include building an in-house EJ wastewater lab for sampling and analysis of Influent and Effluent for all types of parameters, including fecal coliform.
- ✓ EJ mentors Village/City Employees
- ✓ We have 137 Years of combined service amongst our operators

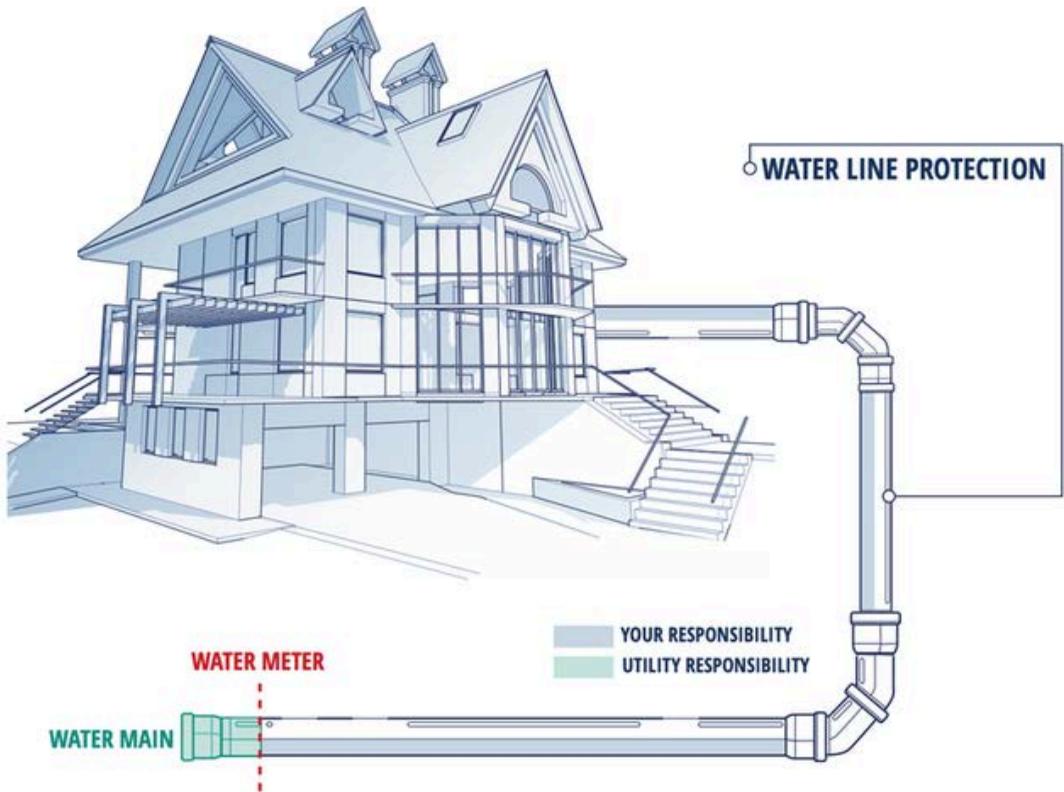
**LEARN MORE** ➔

### WASTEWATER FACTS

- Toilets, showers, and faucets represent 62% of all indoor water use
- Sewers were invented in 600 BC by the Romans
- 99% of wastewater is just dirty water; the other 1 percent is solids, chemicals, nutrients, fats, and other pollutants
- The largest wastewater plant in the world treats over 330 million gallons of wastewater a day

# 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
- ✓ Leak coverage
- ✓ Repair or replacement
- ✓ Leak up to 5 feet from the foundation or permanent structure
- ✓ Leaks up to 5 feet from an outside hydrant

To learn more or opt-out, visit the link below.

[MORE DETAILS](#) >

## DID YOU KNOW?

The average cost to repair service line:  
\$700-1000 per instance

# SAY **HELLO** TO YOUR **EJ WATER PORTAL!**

## What the Portal has to offer:

- Monitor your account(s)
- Update your contact information
- Make one-time payments (subject to processing fees)
- Set up autopay
- Access past and current statements

GO TO PORTAL





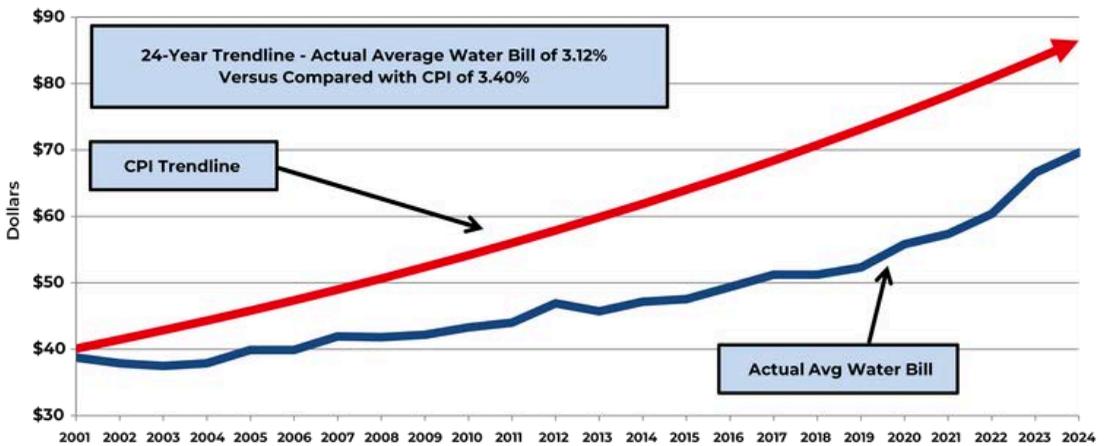
Putting your water into  
water into  
**PERSPECTIVE:**

EJ Water bills at a rate of less than one penny per gallon of water consumed



# MAKING RATES AFFORDABLE

## EJ Water Cooperative, Inc. *Annual Average Monthly Water Bill*



# 3 EASY WAYS TO KEEP YOUR ACCOUNT UP-TO-DATE

Is your mail delayed? Our member services team has several ways to keep your account up-to-date.

1.

## ACH

Request a form from our office to have your monthly bill automatically withdrawn from your bank account at no charge! Payments will be drafted from your account on your due date—next business day if due date falls on a weekend or holiday.

2.

## RECURRING PAYMENTS

You can set up recurring monthly payments from a credit or debit card. (Subject to card processing fees).

3.

## PAPERLESS BILLING

Avoid mail delays by receiving your statement via email or text message.



### FUN FACT

Our \$0.58 service fee to process a one-time payment by e-check is cheaper than a postage stamp!\*

\*Based on current rates

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

Please ensure that if you utilize bill pay through your bank that your account number is accurately listed in the new format - ie: A00001234 - to ensure proper payment application

# WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

## SOURCE WATER PROTECTION/PLANNING

EJ Water updated their source water protection plan in 2023. It is our goal to be intentional in sharing information regarding water quality, protection, planning, and compliance updates. Below are a couple of projects that are currently underway. If you have questions regarding the below topics, or other topics, please email [ejwater@ejwater.com](mailto:ejwater@ejwater.com).

## UCMR 5

Every 5 years the EPA issues a list of unregulated contaminants that are to be monitored by public water systems. These programs provide the EPA and other interested parties with scientifically valid data on the national occurrence of these contaminants in the drinking water.

This is the fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5). For this project, EJ Water, along with other water systems, are required to collect samples and test for 30 different chemical contaminants (29 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and lithium) between 2023 and 2025. EJ's samples have had no detection of these chemicals.

Click link to learn more:

<https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>

## LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY

In an effort to reduce lead in drinking water, the Federal EPA is requiring all water systems to create and maintain an inventory of service line materials. The inventory requires the water system to list all water connections and list the type of service line material on both sides of the water meter (customer side and utility side). Verification is required when documenting the type of material. EJ Water is using an online survey for this verification process – it is our hope that all members will complete the online survey to expedite this project. The survey can be accessed with the following link:

Survey Link: [https://120Water.formstack.com/forms/ejwater\\_serviceline\\_survey](https://120Water.formstack.com/forms/ejwater_serviceline_survey)

Click here to learn more about the inventory project:

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/planning-and-developing-service-line-inventory>



**THANK  
YOU!**



**TO ALL THE MEN AND  
WOMEN WHO HAVE  
SERVED OR CURRENTLY  
SERVE OUR NATION**





**108 S. Main St.  
Dieterich, IL 62424**



**217-925-5566**



**[EJWATERCOOP.COM](http://EJWATERCOOP.COM)**

*Click the icons below to visit our  
social media pages!*

