

To: White Bluff Rate Payers

From: White Bluff Rate Payers Committee

Members: John Bass, Scott Shelton, John Upchurch, Marshall Snyder

“We have GREAT NEWS and some not so Great News”

The GREAT NEWS.

Several months ago, Double Diamond Utilities (DDU) filed their amended Water/Sewer Rate Application (Rate App) with financial information that was just a little bit more believable than the original application. DDU is still asking for roughly a 40% increase though.

With a mountain of knowledge in hand, our Water Rate Attorney (Joe Freeland) and our Rate Expert (Nelisa Heddin) were successful in convincing the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) in Austin to delay implementing the new rates for 265 days until all of the information on the amended Rate App could be verified. We have also been blessed with one of the wettest Texas summers I can remember. What this means to you the Rate Payer is that if your bill usually runs \$100 it would have been around \$140 had the new rates been implemented, not including the significant usage increase usually seen in the heat of the summer.

During this 265 day delayed implementation, which is about 10 months, you will have saved approximately \$400. Your WBRP Committee has attended as many of the hearings in Austin as possible, not only donating their time, but also paying their own expenses solely for your benefit as a Rate Payer and will continue to do so. That is the GREAT NEWS.

Now for the Not So Great News.

I was at a card game last Wednesday night and brought up the upcoming water rate increase issue. The other 5 people at the table looked at me as if they had no knowledge of what I was even talking about. They were all WB residents. Now that is the Bad News.

All Rate Payers have received a 265 day reprieve from the rate increase. Therefore, ratepayers are not experiencing angst, conversation or anger about the pain of writing that next bloated check to DDU. This is a case of “out of sight and out of mind”.

Unfortunately, this condition has significantly hurt our efforts to fund raise for this effort like we need to. After my last email to all of you a few weeks ago we received a little over \$4000 in donations. Thank you so much for that. It is greatly appreciated.

But almost simultaneously, we received a bill for \$15,778. Now I am sure you get my point.

To date, to the best of my knowledge, DDU has spent \$137,000 on their efforts to obtain a rate increase, and the WBRP has spent just about \$54,000. Almost half of the amount spent by WBRP was donated as matching funds from the WBPOA. Originally, we as a committee stated that if every WBRP/homeowner donated \$100 we would have about \$65,000 for this effort. Many have donated twice and there are a few who have donated in excess of \$1000.

The situation is now critical. **We must have your continued financial support to contest the rate increase and keep your rates from permanently increasing by 40%.**

Our Rate Expert (Nelisa Heddin) has prepared devastating testimony to the DDU case that has the potential to keep the rates close the same as they are now. I am not making promises about what can happen with the rates. However, now is the most expensive time in a rate case like this. It is also the most productive time that is spent producing all of the testimony leading up to the PUC trial and hearing.

So, if you feel compelled by my heart felt plea to donate a part of your 265 day savings on your water bill, you may remit a check, hopefully for \$100 or any other amount you wish to donate, to the WBRP, PO Box 37, Whitney, Texas 76692. You may also drop your donation off at the WBPOA office just across the street from the main gate, or you may donate through Paypal. Simply click this link to go to the www.whitebluffpoa.com website. Click on the WBRP tab and at the bottom of the page click on "donate", which will take you to Paypal for you to make your donation.

Thank you so much for your continued support. I know we can count on all of you to help us keep rates affordable.

The WBRP Committee

John Bass, Marshall Snyder, Scott Shelton, John Upchurch