

UPPER LA PLATA WATER USERS ASSOCIATION

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: TO PROVIDE A SAFE AND DEPENDABLE DRINKING WATER SUPPLY TO OUR MEMBERS AT REASONABLE RATES

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

1438 HWY 170

VOL.26 P.O. BOX 207 LA PLATA, NM 87418 PHONE: (505)-326-1751 MARCH 2025

BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: CHAD KING

VICE PRESIDENT: STEVEN DUNN

SECRETARY/TREASURER: MELISSA MONTOYA

BOARD MEMBER: CHRIS DUNLAP

BOARD MEMBER: CHARLES BLASSINGAME

SYSTEM DIRECTOR: CHANCE FULLER

SYSTEM OPERATOR: LARRY KENNEDY

SYSTEM OPERATOR: JEREMY LOWENSTEIN

OFFICE MANAGER: DAWN BLASSINGAME

PART TIME ACCOUNT: SYLVIA CHRISTIANSEN

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY-THURSDAY 8:30 AM TO 12:00/12:30 TO 3:00 PM

President's Message

Here is an update of the personnel at Upper La Plata Water Users. Dwight James retired after serving the system for 36 years. Our system grew significantly and strategically during his leadership, so is in a great position for the future. We wish him the best in retirement. Chance Fuller was promoted to the Director position, bringing creative ideas and good teamwork that has characterized our system operation. Jeremy Lowenstein was hired as a System Operator and joins Larry Kennedy in that position. Dawn Blassingame continues in the role as Office Manager. In the part time accounting job, Maria Hathcock performs those duties, but would like to retire as well. We hired Sylvia Christiansen as our new part time accountant and she has been receiving training from Maria during this transition. This team of employees has done a great job handling the changes, challenges and growth in our system, while keeping operating costs and the cost of water as low as possible.

The five person Board of Directors had two positions up for election in January. Melissa Montoya was appointed to the board when Rita Jaquez stepped down in 2023. Melissa ran for that position in this election. Chris Dunlap was up re-election to her position as well. Melissa and Chris won their election positions and will continue on their 3 year term. The Board encourages any system member to attend our meetings, meet the board and staff, and give input to the topics at hand. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30pm at the school house.

ULPWU has received \$2.9 million of capital outlay funds from State Legislature for a important system improvement project that will increase water line size in a portion of our system. This project should begin construction in 2025. We also received funding to purchase a new pickup for operator use.

Customer growth on the system has continued to slowly grow to 808 members. Annual water consumption has increased to 55,255,000 gallons in 2024 in comparison to 49,872,000 gallons in 2023. We continue to buy our treated water from Lower Valley Water Users. The last rate increase was implemented in January of 2024 due to a rate increase from Lower Valley.

There has been interest by many of our members to be able to pay their bills online and autopay. The staff have implemented a new website and online bill pay is now available for use. We look forward to improving communication to our members

Thank you to our members and we look forward to another successful year!

Sincerely,

Chad King, President