

**MEADOWLAND WATER USERS ASSOCIATION
SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 6, 2016**

A special meeting was held at the Northridge Lutheran Church on January 6, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.. List of those in attendance is attached. Erinn Zindt, Technical Assistance Provider, Midwest Assistance Program, introduced herself and explained what this meeting was all about. It was an educational meeting and the topic of high nitrates in our water. Erinn explained that once the nitrate level reaches over 10 mcp we will be required to do something with the water system and we will be in violation.

Erinn explained that at the present time we are under 8mcp, however, there was one test out of pump number 2 which reached 9.16 mcp. Generally it runs in the 7's. There are several options to be considered for a new water source: deeper wells, new wells, purchasing water from city of Kalispell, treatment. All these options are expensive.

Erinn asked that everyone maintain their septic systems as high nitrates can be contributed to human wastes from poor septic systems and drain fields.

Emily from DEQ was present and stated that she has done some research on the cost of nitrate treatment systems and found that it costs somewhere between \$100,000 to \$350,000 and approximately \$40,000 for operation and maintenance.

Tom Jentz, Planning Director for the City of Kalispell, spoke concerning annexation. The subdivision is wholly surrounded by the city and although the city has not moved toward annexation, it has been being looked at for some time. According to state law the City does have the ability to force annexation on parcels of land that are wholly surrounded.

Annexing into the City would cause an approximate 28% increase in the owner's property taxes. The subdivision would then receive city services of street maintenance and police and fire protection. Garbage would run approximately \$111 per year on the taxes.

Susie Turner, Public Works Director, City of Kalispell, spoke about what the public works department requires with an annexation. The water system must have high enough fire flows and fire hydrants (currently we do not). Fire hydrants must have an 8" water main serving it (ours do not). Discussion on this issue included whether we could get city water with out annexation (no), if we could use the current water system for irrigation purposes only (maybe), who pays for the extension of mains into the subdivision and installation of the fire hydrants (subdivision does). Sewer connection to the city would not be required until septic tank or drain field failures. It would be the responsibility of the property owners to install the sewer system.

Special Improvement Districts can be formed to cover the costs of extension of water and/or sewer.

Hiring an engineer to do a Preliminary Engineering Study is the next step. Hiring an engineer would be done by placing a Request for Proposal notice in the newspaper.

Erinn encouraged more meetings and more involvement in this issue.

The meeting ended at 7:45 p.m..