



## Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Approved

## Mount Pleasant Waterworks Maintains Low Rates

MPW customers will continue to enjoy the second lowest rates among regional water/wastewater utilities and the lowest in Charleston County. At their Annual Meeting on June 29th, MPW Commissioners approved a new budget for Fiscal Year 2010 that included **no scheduled increases** in water and wastewater volumetric charges, basic facility charges, or impact fees.

“Our Commissioners understand that so many people are facing hard economic times and they did not want to add to the hardships by raising another bill. In response to current economic conditions we cut our budget in many areas including salaries and benefits, travel and education, and Capital Projects to maintain rates at their current level,” stated Clay Duffie, Mount Pleasant Waterworks General Manager.

The major strategic initiative in the Annual Business Plan is to continue toward conserving resources for the future. Our resources include our fiscal resources, our human resources, our water resources, our energy resources and intellectual resources. Some of the projects MPW deployed to conserve resources included a reduction in the workforce, working on an energy efficient Wastewater Master Plan, and creating ways to reduce miles driven and fuel consumption.

As the water and wastewater provider for Mount Pleasant we will continue to work on creative ways to attack these high priced items within this budget, including:

- ◆ Center Street wastewater treatment plant modernization
- ◆ rising energy and fuel costs,
- ◆ supplies, manpower and operations,
- ◆ replacement of aging infrastructure,
- ◆ and investment in new technologies that keep drinking water and the environment clean and safe.

*Commissioners approved an Operating Budget of \$20,490,831 for FY2010—\$755,484 less than the FY2009 Revised Budget. The Capital Expenditures Budget was approved at \$14,869,796.*



The MPW Operations Center will be closed on **Monday, September 7th for Labor Day**. If you have a water or wastewater service emergency, please call **884-9626**. Our

Answering Service will contact on-call personnel to assist you. Have a safe and happy holiday!



## Stay Hydrated to Stay Healthy

With summer's hottest days now settling in, our humid, Lowcountry heat can sometimes be exhausting, leaving you tired, mentally lethargic, even feverish.

**HEAT** + **Humidity** = **Dehydration**

Did you know that by the time you feel thirsty, you've lost one to three-percent of your body fluids and are well on the way to dehydration?

Mental confusion is a common early sign, followed by feelings of tiredness and exhaustion. Blood pressure will drop, leading to light-headedness or feeling an impending blackout. (Both children and older people are more susceptible to dehydration because of their bodies not being able to compensate for the effects of heat and humidity.)

## Reach for the TAP

Keep plenty of cold water on hand for yourself and your family, and drink at least 8 full glasses of water each day to replenish your body's vital fluids. Try to limit your intake of sugary or caffeinated drinks, as they can't hydrate your body like water, and can even cause your body to dehydrate faster.

## Bottle Your Tap Water!



Bottle water straight from the tap! Buy several reusable containers from your grocery or discount store, then fill, chill, and go! You can also freeze bottles of water to pack for lunches. Tip: Fill only to within an inch or two to allow for the water to expand as it freezes.

## Keep It Clean!

Whether you're at the beach, a local park, or just in your own backyard, make sure trash and recyclable materials are put in their proper place.

When trash is not properly thrown away or recycled, it can wash down storm drains or get blown into streams, rivers, and oceans becoming marine debris.

Plastic grocery bags, bottles, ropes, soda rings, fishing lines and other items can threaten public safety, hurt the economy with costly cleanups, deter tourism, and harm or kill marine life like seals, sea turtles, and birds.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends five simple actions that can prevent trash from becoming marine debris:

- ◆ Never put anything down a storm drain;
- ◆ Use reusable bags instead of disposable bags;
- ◆ Choose products with less packaging when possible;
- ◆ Replace disposable items with reusable ones such as bottles, plates, and cups;
- ◆ Keep recyclables and trash in covered and secured containers.

**Information on marine debris:**  
<http://www.epa.gov/owow/oceans/debris/> <<http://www.epa.gov/owow/oceans/debris/>

**Ways to reduce waste:**  
<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/> <<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/>

The MPW Commission Newsletter Water Lines is produced in-house and mailed to customers each month with bills and statements. Current and past issues can also be viewed and downloaded from our website:

## Save Money on Your Water Bill



### Fix Outdoor Leaks

Have you checked the outside faucets on your home lately? What about the irrigation system? Water leaks will cause your water bill to be out of sight if you have a steady leak, even if it's only a few drips a minute.

**Calculate the potential water loss (and money wasted!) with a few simple checks:**



A dripping faucet or fixture can waste 3 gallons a day, a total of 1095 gallons a year! A continuous leak — at a system pressure of 60 pounds per square inch (psi) — would waste water in the amounts shown in the table:

Diameter of Flow	Gallons/Month
● 1/4-inch	393,834
● 3/16-inch	222,000
● 1/8-inch	98,667
● 1/16-inch	24,667

For more help, go to the American Water Works Association's (AWWA) website and use their **Drip Calculator** (<http://www.awwa.org/awwa/waterwiser/dripcalc.cfm>)

### Check your irrigation system



Identify broken or plugged nozzles, broken or misaligned heads and any broken lines. Also check for damaged sprinkler heads — especially after mowing.

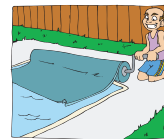


### Close the hose

Turn off water at the tap rather than at the nozzle.

### Swimming pools

Install covers on pools and spas and check for leaks around pumps.



Join us on Saturday, September 19th from 8:00 a.m. until Noon. MPW will have a booth with supplies and ice-cold RO water on the Ben Sawyer Causeway.

### MPW Operations Center

1619 Rifle Range Road

Monday - Friday • 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**884-9626 • 884-4858 (fax)**

[customerservice@mpwonline.com](mailto:customerservice@mpwonline.com)

Email requests will be processed the following business day.

## Quick News and Notes



Anyone taking water from fire hydrants or water services *without the proper meter installed* is stealing. Every gallon of water taken illegally is money that belongs to you, the customer.

MPW encourages anyone noticing or suspecting that someone may be taking water without proper authorization to call **884-9626**. The call can be anonymous. Please provide as much information as possible, such as company name on the side of a vehicle, etc.

Thanks for your help!



Turn your pennies into **DOLLARS** to benefit East Cooper Community Outreach (ECCO) or Water Missions International (WMI). Just call **884-9626** and tell us you want to **ROUND-UP** your bill payment to the next highest dollar and request the change go to either ECCO -or- WMI. You can also sign up online by clicking the **Customer Service** tab on the navigation bar, then **ROUND-UP** on the drop-down menu.