



Managing & Protecting  
our Local Water Resources



## Annual Water Quality Report 2006

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Welcome to the 11th annual Water Quality Report for customers of the South Berwick Water District (SBWD). It summarizes activities of 2005 and offers information about your water service.

The District supplies the people of South Berwick and a small part of Berwick, Maine, with clean, safe water 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. That responsibility is laid out in our 1959 Charter from the Maine Legislature and traces back to a South Berwick Water Company organized in 1894.

Clean water is a routine feature of our daily lives. But the tasks of locating, collecting, treating, and distributing that water; testing constantly to ensure

quality and safety; and monitoring environmental measures requires complex equipment and employees with skills including technology, biology, and chemistry.

We are proud of the work we do for you, and to be your source for all your water services. If you have any questions or concerns about your water quality or service, please call the South Berwick Water District at (207) 384-2257 during business hours (8:00 AM – 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday, except for holidays).



SBWD Office

**"The District supplies the people of South Berwick and a small part of Berwick, Maine, with clean, safe water 24 hours a day, 365 days a year."**

## Highlights in 2005



Highlights in 2005 include the replacement of 1894 cast iron pipe in Academy Street with new ductile iron pipe. This project was a cooperative project with the Town and Sewer District taking over three years to complete. The District worked with Mick Construction Corporation in

installing over 6,800 feet of 12 inch and 8 inch water main to serve a new sub-division off Knights Pond Road, Meadow Pond Estates. The SBWD replaced a 1995 pick-up truck with a new 2006 work truck. All employees of the District are State licensed and approved operators of public water systems. The Trustees and Staff

of the SBWD have revised the Terms and Conditions of the SBWD. They have remained unchanged since 1988 and needed to be revised to come into compliance with today's rules and social changes. The revised Terms and Conditions are to take effect in September of '06.



## Well Head/Watershed Protection

Source water protection remains the single most efficient and cost-effective method of protecting the quality of public drinking water supplies. South Berwick and the surrounding area are experiencing major changes to our landscape with increased residential and commercial development. With development comes the increased chance of contamination of our public water supplies. The most effective way of protecting a drinking water source is for the public water system to own, whenever possible, or control as much as possible of the water-

shed land that surrounds the source they need to manage the activities on land to ensure the continuation of high-quality drinking water for generations to come. The SBWD continues to work with the Great Works Regional Land Trust and other concerned land owners on purchasing and protecting land that protects our present and future water supply.

Benefits of source water protection include

- Long-term, high-quality source water for the customers and taxpayers of the SBWD.
- High-quality source water continuously reducing overall treatment costs.
- Open space, as the Town of South Berwick grows, the land surrounding the well supplies owned by the SBWD will remain the same - - forested, undeveloped, and full of wildlife recreational opportunities. The SBWD understands the importance of open space for all to enjoy and currently allows recreational use of the source water protection lands.

## Water Facts

### Annual State-wide Supply

- 24,000,000,000,000 (that's 4 trillion) gallons of water fall on Maine in a normal year with **42 inches of precipitation (we had in 2005 and are at 00 inches through 6/06).**
- Almost 8,400,000,000,000 gallons (35%) evaporate (the water cycle).\*
- About 12,000,000,000,000 gallons (50%) run off into streams, rivers, lakes, and ocean.

\*About 3,600,000,000,000 gallons (15%) ends up in the groundwater.

### Annual State-wide Demand (Biggest Users)

- About 37, 000,000,000 gallons (0.15%) of the total annual supply are used by paper mills (rivers and lakes).
- About 34,000,000,000 gallons (0.14%) are used by water utilities (8 billion gallons from groundwater

and 26 billion gallons from surface supplies).

- About 719,000,000 gallons (0.003%) are used by agriculture (various supplies).
- About 559,000,000 gallons (0.002%) are used in snowmaking (various sources).
- About 448,000,000 gallons (0.002%) are used in bottled water (groundwater).

## SBWD Facts

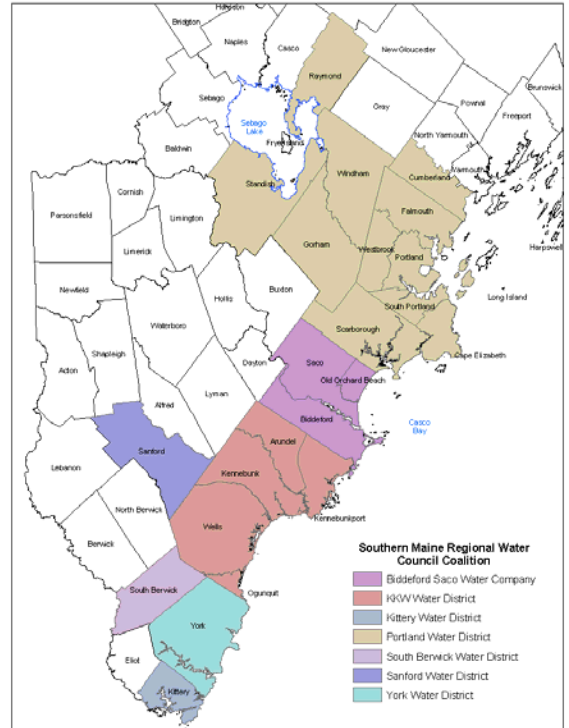
Miles of Pipe	36	Population Served	4,200
Number of Services	2,000	Number of Employees	4
Number of Hydrants	158	Number of Trustees	5
Number of Customers	1,400	Pump Stations/Well Fields	4
Water Storage, gallons	1 million	Treatment Plants	1
Assets	\$11.0 million	Debt	\$3.8 million
Annual Revenue	1.0 million	Acres of Land (owned)	121





## *SBWD A Leader in Regionalism*

The South Berwick Water District was one of seven water utilities to have proposed and have adopted legislation to create Regional Water Councils. The Southern Maine Regional Water Council was formed and begun to examine ways to reduce costs and provide enhanced customer service. The utilities include the Portland Water District; The Biddeford and Saco Water Company; Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, and Wells Water District; Sanford Water District; York Water District; and the South Berwick Water District. The newly-formed Council elected Mike Nadeau, Superintendent of the SBWD, as their President. While just starting, the Council has already made strides in chemical purchasing and fuel purchasing saving customers thousands of dollars. Other goals include the mutual aid agreements, joint purchasing opportunities, standardization of materials and equipment, water system inter-connections, and the investigations of joint billing/meter reading, joint call centers, back-office support, and shared personnel. Combined, these seven utilities serve 23 communities and over 375,000 people.



## *Hydrant Rental Charges*

There always seem to be questions on how and why the Water District assesses hydrant rental charges to the Town of South Berwick.

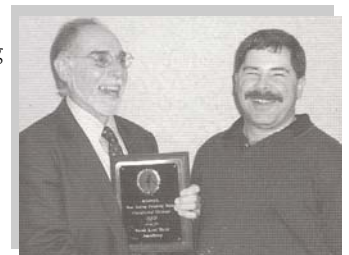


Chapter sixty-nine (69) of the Maine Public Utilities Commission rules governs how much a water system must charge a municipality for public fire protection. In general, most systems charge thirty percent (30%) of their annual revenue requirements in the form of public fire protection. The charge is the same whether the water system is a district, a department of the Town, or a privately-owned company. For more information, please contact the SBWD or the PUC.

## *If You Think You Got the Best, Put it to the Test!*

The Maine Rural Water Association was pleased to announce the winner of their 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Drinking Water Taste Test. Within the disinfected water category, MRWA witnessed a substantial increase in competition. There were over 20 utilities submitting samples. The water sample submitted by the South Berwick Water District (Junction Road) was chosen as the best tasting water from this category.

This is the fourth time that South Berwick has won this prestigious honor. The District has won this award from three of the District's four water supplies.



# South Berwick Water District

80 Berwick Road  
South Berwick, ME 03908

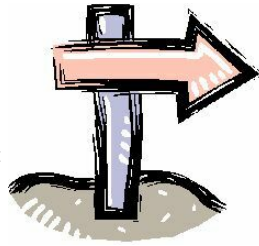
Phone: 207-384-2257

Fax: 207-384-2762

E-mail: [info@sbwd.org](mailto:info@sbwd.org)

## We're on the web!

The SBWD launched its new website in 2005. While still in development, the site is hoped to keep the customers well-informed of the happenings of the SBWD. To visit the website, go to:  
[www.sbwd.org](http://www.sbwd.org).



## Trustees - Public Officials and Stewards

A steward is someone who takes responsibility for the care of someone else's possessions entrusted to him/her. As a Trustee, you are a steward of your community, which has entrusted you with providing a critical service (public water) and protecting its investment (in the long-term viability of the water system). In fact, your community has entrusted a very valuable and precious asset to you - its water supply. You are a steward not only for your current customers, but also for future generations of customers. If you make an important decision today, it could have significant long-term effects.

There are special legal requirements for public officials that don't apply to running private businesses. There are also special ethical requirements for public officials. These special ethical requirements for Trustees include the following:

- A Trustee is expected to make decisions and act in a fair and honest way.
- A Trustee's decisions and actions must be perceived as impartial, fair and accountable by the public.
- Both the Trustees and the District lose credibility if the Trustees break the public trust.
- Being a Trustee and providing public service is about consensus, about recognizing the interests of the people are best served in identifying what it is that needs to be done.

We welcome your interest, and invite you to attend our meetings. The Board usually meets at 7 PM on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the Water District offices, 80 Berwick Road, South Berwick.

## Board of Trustees

Paul F. Klebaur, Chairman

James DeWitt Sullivan, Treasurer

Henry L.. Miller, Clerk

Douglas . Letellier, Trustee

Warren C. Spencer, Trustee

