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Annual Water Quality Report 2007

Welcome to the 12th annual Water Quality Report for customers of the South Berwick Water District. It summarizes activities of 2006 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.

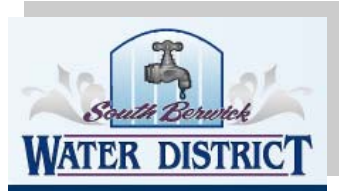
Clean water is a routine feature of our daily lives. But the tasks of locating, collecting, treating, and distributing that water; testing constantly to ensure quality and safety; and monitoring environmental measures requires complex equipment and employees with skills including technology, biology, 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 AM –

4:30 PM, Monday through Friday, except for holidays).

"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."

Don't run
Turning off the water when you brush your teeth can save 4 gallons a minute. A family of four can save **200 gallons a week** just by following this simple tip.



Highlights in 2006

Highlights of 2006 include the replacement of approximately 1,000 feet of water-main on Jewett Avenue in conjunction with the town's road improvement program. The Water District also replaced a hydrant on Spring Street. Water-main extensions were performed at the Back Acres subdivision off Hooper Sands Road (1,000 feet), Heritage Hill subdivision off Pond Road

(1,000 feet), and the further extension of the Meadow Ponds subdivision off Knights Pond Road (800 feet). The SBWD and Sewer District agreed to a joint venture in a Geographical Information System (GIS) that, when completed in the future, will provide a detailed mapping and information system that will be shared with the town and other entities. The SBWD also located a potential future public

water supply off of Knights Pond Road and Rte. 4. The District also expanded its territorial boundaries in the Rte 4 corridor in Berwick to serve several developments requesting public water. The SBWD continues its meter change-out program to new radio-read technology and treatment plant enhancements at the Willow Drive Treatment Plant.





Public Water Supply Protection: Why Should I Care?

Source water protection remains the single most efficient and cost effective method of protecting the quality of public drinking water supplies. The quality of ground and surface water sources of drinking water in Maine is generally higher than most states, in part because we have not encroached upon source protection areas.

If we intend to preserve the quality of our drinking water as the population grows, we need to identify, protect, and manage important watershed and well-head lands. The paradox is that as population grows, the cost of these lands increases while the feasibility of acquisition decreases.

The good news is that many municipalities and land trusts also seek to preserve natural areas and rural character. We have an opportunity to work together and meet these common goals. We have done this in the past and hope to continue in the future.

To further protect public water supplies, L.D 1888, An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Drinking Water Program Regarding Public Water Supplies, was amended and enacted. It establishes public water systems' primary protection areas as protected natural resources under the Natural Resources Protection Act. Any new activities conducted in those areas will be subject to defined environmental performance

standards. The public water system and the State Drinking Water Program must be notified of those activities.

The DEP's Natural Resource Protection Act will include the 300-foot or 200-day sanitary protection area around community water supplies and the shoreland zone of community water supply lakes, as well as a half-mile zone above river and stream intakes. Maps of these delineated areas are currently available at municipal, water utility, and state DWP offices.

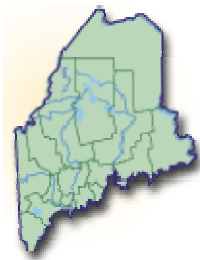


SBWD Continues as a Leader in Regionalism

In 2005 water utility-sponsored legislation to encourage regional solutions for water utilities was passed, creating Maine regional water councils. The Southern Maine Regional Water Council (SMRWC) (Portland Water District, Biddeford-Saco Water Company, Kennebunk-Kennebunkport-Wells Water District, Sanford Water District, York Water District, Kittery Water District, and South Berwick Water District) have been examining ways to reduce costs, improve efficiencies, and improve contingency plans for providing water services. Combined, these seven utilities serve 23 communities serving roughly 375,000 people.

The SMRWC is a regional solution to common water utility concerns. It has created a collaborated forum to address regional issues, share best practices, mini-

mize duplication, and improve efficiencies. Major accomplishments in 2006 included the establishment of a mutual aid agreement and cooperative purchasing program.



Through the mutual aid agreement, utilities are better prepared for a major disaster or emergency and have pledged to lend a hand to their fellow council members in case of a significant emergency. The cooperative purchasing program has grown to include 25 commonly-purchased chemical categories and has saved member utilities \$1,109,800 in 2007, or 9%, through volume discounts and an increase in competition. Twenty-one members participated in this chemical bidding process, which totaled \$1,094,800. Similar bidding for fuel and gas has also saved the utilities thousands of dollars through volume discounts.

"We have made great strides toward cooperative approaches, reducing redundancies, and saving our ratepayers money. We will continue to examine ways to expand past successes. In 2007, I hope we'll explore joint planning and setting local industry standards that would facilitate the integration of water systems and sources," stated SMRWC President Mike Nadeau, Superintendent of South Berwick Water District.

To that end, the SMRWC recently received a \$100,000 grant from the Maine Municipal Bond Bank under the Bank's Credit Quality Improvement Grant Program. The goal of the group for the grant is to support the goals of the council, which are to create operational and development efficiencies and support between the seven utilities comprising the council.

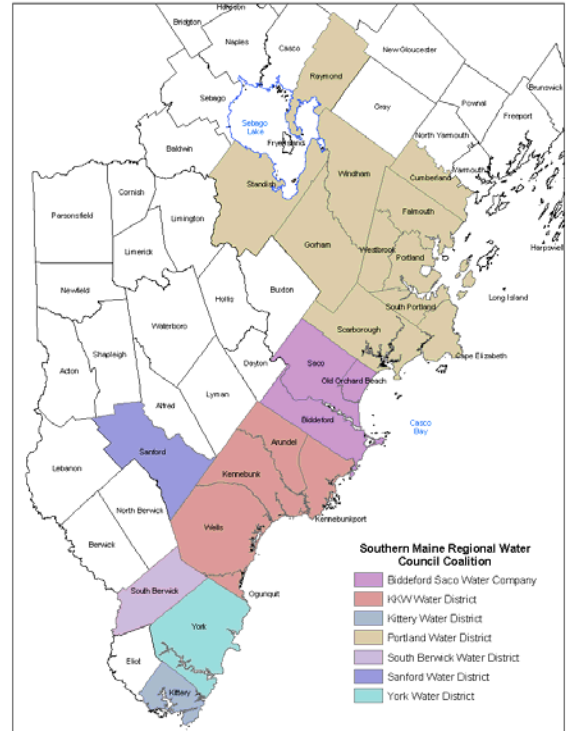
The council proposes to develop a single regional master plan which would focus



SBWD Continues As A Leader in Regionalism, cont'd

on an evaluation of system hydraulics, water quality, interconnections, storage facilities, balancing water use from various sources, increasing security, and managing future costs through cooperative and collective investments.

Further, KEYS (Kittery, Eliot, York, South Berwick), a sub-group of the council, received a \$50,000 grant to assess joint billing and meter reading services. Both grant projects are expected to be completed by June of 2008.



SBWD Staff Selected

The Environmental Protection Agency, through its office of Groundwater and Drinking Water, has selected Mike Nadeau, Superintendent to be a member of the Small Business Advocacy Review Panel for revisions to the Total Coliform Rule and Pending Distribution System Rule.

Super Nadeau is also the past president of the SMRWC and the MWUA. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the SMRWC and MWUA and is a member of the MWUA Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee.

SBWD General Foreman John Leach has been appointed to the MWUA Education and Operations Committee. The committee provides training and education for water professionals throughout the state. Mr. Leach is also a lieutenant on the South Berwick Fire Department.

Fix your drips

A steady drip from a faucet can waste **350 gallons of water a year**. A new washer often does the trick. Check outside faucets/spigots as well.



South Berwick Water District

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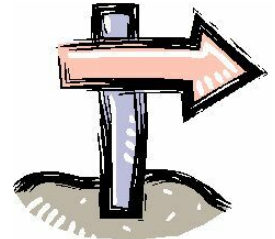
E-mail: info@sbwd.org

If you have any questions or comments about your water quality or service, please call the South Berwick Water District at (207) 384-2257 during our business hours (8 AM-4:30 PM, Monday through Friday, except for holidays).

You can also find SBWD and other information on the Internet by going to our web-site at www.sbwd.org

We're on the web!

www.sbwd.org



A Message From Your Board of Trustees

The public has unusual expectations of public entities. That includes institutions that normally don't think they have anything in common. What does the town, school district, sewer district, and water district have in common? Each is a monopoly that serves the public.

Taxpayers and customers know that their money supports the town, school, sewer and water districts. Don't bother them with the differences among taxes, fees, bills, etc. They know one thing: that they pay good money for public services. As a result, they expect a lot and rightfully so.

We strive and hope to meet our customers' expectations and to be a valued member of the communities we serve as well as a respected leader in our industry. As stewards of the public's dollar, our fiduciary responsibility means being a wise trustee.

Our mission is to protect public health

by providing our customers with the highest quality water for domestic use and fire protection while emphasizing customer service and innovation in an affordable and competitive manner while making environmentally-sound decisions.

The trustees hold regular meetings twice each month on the first and third Tuesdays; meetings begin at 7:00 PM. Special meetings are occasionally called to deal with a specific issue; the times and dates of special meetings vary and are announced at the time the meeting is scheduled. All meetings are open to the public and are held at the district's offices unless otherwise announced.

Board of Trustees

Paul F. Klebaur, Chairman

James DeWitt Sullivan, Treasurer

Henry L. Miller, Clerk

Douglas Letellier, Trustee

Warren C. Spencer, Trustee

