



Wholesale water rates remain stable despite challenging economic times.

For Immediate Release

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(Bellevue, WI) The six member board of the [Central Brown County Water Authority](#) has voted to keep the Authority's 2012 wholesale water rate to member communities at \$4.16 per thousand gallons, the same rate as 2011. "The board is pleased to be able to keep the rate stable," said Authority President Larry Delo. The Authority's member communities include Allouez, Bellevue, De Pere, Howard, Lawrence and Ledgeview who are working to provide a quality water supply to their residents.

Water consumption by the six communities has declined steadily over the past few years, going from a high of 3.2 billion gallons annually in 2004 to a low of 2.5 billion gallons in 2010. Central Brown County Water Authority projects sales of slightly over 2.5 billion gallons in 2012. "We are very encouraged to see that water consumption by our members is leveling out after several years of decline," said Authority President Larry Delo. "Water sales volumes have a significant impact on our rate structure."

This trend is common with many communities in Wisconsin experiencing declining water sales.

Reasons for the decline include:

- Increasing recognition of the cost of water and on practicing good water conservation methods
- Wet weather conditions experienced locally in the spring and summer reduced the need for lawn and garden watering
- Successful leak detection and correction efforts by the member communities decreased local system losses and reduced the amount of water purchased from the Authority.

"Water conservation is a positive for everyone as it helps protect a valuable resource used by so many," said Delo. "Although it means less revenue, it also means that the Authority can defer planned capital expenditures well beyond their initial schedule."

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When the Authority was formed in 2003, the member communities were growing at a rate indicating the need to add storage capacity and other improvements to the system as soon as the year 2014. With the drop in projected water use and member implementation of improved system operating practices that minimize peak demand, these infrastructure improvements can be put on hold, helping to stabilize future rates.

The \$4.16 per thousand gallons wholesale rate is uniformly billed to each member community and represents the cost of purchasing water from Manitowoc Public Utilities and transporting it to the member's water distribution system. Local member rates, charged by each community to its own residents, are set independently by the members to cover both the cost of purchasing water from the Authority and local operation, maintenance and capital costs.

“We recognize the economic challenges being faced by our members and are working together to minimize water system costs is a priority,” explained Delo. “The board will continue to pursue cost savings throughout the life of this system”

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