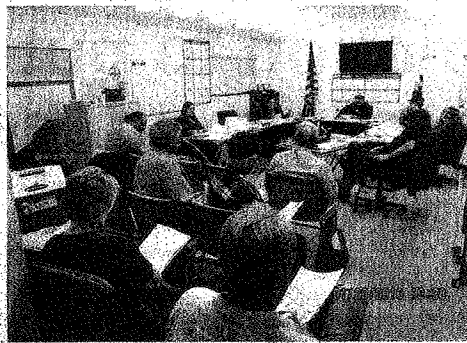
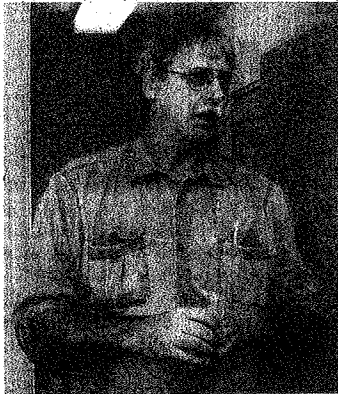


FPPUD votes to pursue regional water system consolidation ³

Special Public Meeting

The Frazier Park Public Utility District Board invites the public to explore questions about regional water system consolidation
Thursday, Feb. 18 at 7 p.m.
at the Frazier Mountain Park Community Center

Gary Meyer photos



Left: Consultant Dave Warner explains options of 'consolidation' vs. 'interconnection' for water systems at the pre-planning meeting (above) January 28.

By Gary Meyer

Directors of the Frazier Park Public Utility District (FPPUD) voted unanimously Thursday, Jan. 28 to pursue consolidation of local water sources into a regional water system in the event that the plan is approved by its water customers.

The FPPUD board again rejected "interconnection" between separate systems as an option. If FPPUD customers approve becoming part of a regional water project, all the areas involved will become part of Frazier Park Public Utility District. Merely running a pipe from Frazier Park's system to independent systems for the purpose of selling water is not economically feasible, members of the FPPUD board have learned. The cost of creating, maintaining and operating the infrastructure would be too great, without assurance of adequate revenue to pay for it, board members have said.

The potential benefits of joining forces, and economic 'carrots' offered by the state to help upgrade aging infrastructure, have attracted several water systems to consider becoming part of a regional system.

The owner of Lake of the Woods Mobile Village said he prefers to join in a regional water system, Self-Help Enterprises water consultant David Warner told the board.

Lake of the Woods Mutual Water Company was scheduled to count votes from its shareholders on that question on Thursday, Feb. 4 at 7 p.m.

Bear Court, with four connections to an independent well in the Lake of the Woods area, has yet to confirm whether it will join. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, with its own water system, has

also not yet confirmed.

At the January 28 pre-planning meeting, Chuck Schroeder from Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church attended to gather information for church officials to discuss options for their water system, which has tested high for nitrates.

Frazier Park's board has scheduled another public information meeting about consolidation for February 18 at 7 p.m. (at the Frazier Mountain Park Community Center).

If LOWMWC and FPPUD customers vote to unite, then the coalition of water systems willing to join would—together—qualify for a potential

grant of more than \$13 million for infrastructure improvement Warner said.

Civil Engineer Dee Jaspar explained at several prior meetings that the amount of water in the Cuddy Creek aquifer is adequate to supply healthy water to all the residents of the region. He said the amount of the water in the aquifer does not change because the placement of the straws is shifted.

The board expects that questions such as, "Why should we let Lake of the Woods take our water?" and "What benefits would Frazier Park receive from an annexation?" will be addressed at the February 18 meeting.