

A Chronology of Selected Events of the Big Lagoon CSD Water System 2000 – 2020

(Unless otherwise noted, events are taken from BLCSD meeting minutes, or from personal notes, and are based on subjective judgment as to their importance.)

Researched & Compiled by W.K. Wenger, PhD

August 1999 - Purchase agreement signed by Peltonen Aug 3, 1999 and BLCSD Aug 19, 1999.

May 18, 2000 – PUC authorizes BLWC to transfer its water system to BLCSD.

2000 – After a minor earthquake the pipeline to the school ruptured and was repaired. Low water pressure and poor aesthetic water quality were reported as a consequence of repairing and re-pressurizing the system (Annual Water Quality Report 2000).

Dec 14, 2000 – Rick Reinhard (Whitson Inc. General Manager) does some repairs to system, and provides a quote for a major overhaul including an 8' X 14' building, adding a backup generator, and adding an automatic chlorinator. Water is currently treated using "shock sterilization" where a bottle of Clorox is poured into the redwood tank. The water then proceeds to the pressurized tank and then continues out to the distribution system.

Feb 5, 2001 – The Board defers on adding a chlorinator and generator to the system at this time.

May 24, 2001 – The new 8' X 14' building is up, and the electrical panel is installed inside.

June 27, 2001 – Board discusses cleaning the 20,000-gallon redwood tank (RWT) and replacing the bands. Tank cleaning scheduled to start July 9 at a cost of \$6,791.

Sep 27, 2001 – During the previous week there was a leak in the water pipe that serves the school and the two customers across the street. The leak was found some ways down the hill from the tank. Rick Reinhard (Whitson) provided parts and repaired the leak. Customers were without water from 10:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

Dec 27, 2001 – Moisture is collecting inside the new building and there was dampness around the electrical panel.

Mar 28, 2002 – Board discussed acquiring an automatic chlorination system at a cost of \$2,000 - \$2,500. District receives a quote from Whitson of \$2,627 for an automatic chlorinator on May 30.

Jul 25, 2002 – Motion approved to have an easement survey done.

Aug 28, 2002 – Deferred doing an easement survey due to cost.

Nov 21, 2002 – An automatic chlorinator was installed by Whitson. Board discussed water pressure at hydrants using the 15 HP pump.

Dec 19, 2002 – Board discusses borrowing or renting a backup generator during outages.

Mar 24, 2005 – Board contemplates developing a MOU with school to allow district to use the school's generator if compatible. A proposal from Whitson, dated April 19, 2005, will dig a trench

from the school to the well site building; install conduit and appropriately sized wire, a transfer switch, and transformers to boost power from 208 volts to 240. Includes bedding and backfill, and replacing pavement. Cost estimate is \$21,790. For an additional \$1,544 Whitson will install a water pipe. Whitson also proposed an alternative: A new generator plus installation for \$13,998. Board elects to go with a new generator.

Sep 29, 2005 – Generator and parts are on hand, but not yet hooked up.

Jan 26, 2006 – Emergency generator operated flawlessly during a power outage. It ran for 120 hours until power was restored. Propane level dropped from 70% to just below 20%.

July 27, 2006 – Board makes first request to Whitson about replacing the RWT and pressure tank.

July 26, 2007 – North end of water main is redirected to east side of Oceanview due to proximity of eroded bluff. Two northernmost homes affected.

Mar 26, 2009 – Board hires Whitson to repair leak in RWT for \$1,994.

Apr 23, 2009 – Whitson determines 15 HP pump is completely seized up and is not operational.

June 25, 2009 – Board approves purchase of a new 15 HP pump for \$3,576.

Jul 5, 2010 – 12" (original) well stopped functioning. RWT was empty on July 4, and 4,800 gallons of water was added to tank on July 5th. Board begins looking into drilling a new well and thinks about putting in a 10,000-gallon poly tank.

Oct 11, 2010 – “The 2 ½” pipe to the school ... apparently broke under stress from tree roots during the night of October 8 and drained the redwood tank. No water was available until Monday, October 11, as the tank had to fill in order to test the lines. The location of the leak was discovered on Monday, and fixed. Water was restored ... late afternoon October 11, and to the school line October 12 in the late afternoon.”

Nov 2, 2010 – The new 200' deep well has been drilled. Board approves having Whitson connect new well to system for \$3,942. Well will become primary source of water after testing is complete.

2010 – The Board purchased 10,000 gallons of water for \$480 at one point in 2010.

Aug 3, 2011 – The AquaVar shut itself off due to a “red fault”. Reinhard re-programmed the AquaVar to override the fault. Reinhard proposes using a variable speed drive pump to pressurize the system at an estimated cost of \$8,000.

Jun 7, 2011 – Leach proposes replacing RWD with two 5,000-gallon poly tanks. Board believes district will eventually need 4-5 5,000-gallon tanks. Board discusses using “pillow” tanks.

Dec 7, 2011 – Two new poly tanks installed. RWT bypassed. Most pipes are now underground.

Feb 2012 – RWT is down and partially removed.

Jul 3, 2012 – On Sunday May 27 the manual pump switch was not turned off. The system pumped 63,000 gallons in two days causing the tanks to overflow and spill over 50,000 gallons of water

onto the ground. The electric bill was higher as a result. [Note: A repeat of this event also occurred in November 2020.] Board contemplates adding a third 5,000-gallon tank for reserve.

Aug 8, 2012 – Whitson interested in fixing and/or replacing meters. Board considers adding a third 5,000-gallon poly tank, and possibly a fourth for reserve.

Sep 19, 2012 – The pressurized tank has been removed. A new chain-link fence has been installed at a cost of \$5,000.

Oct 17, 2012 – Under New Business: *“Our policies state that we are NOT a District which claims to provide fire coverage. We do not have sufficient water to fight most large or small fires.”* [Could not find this policy anywhere in BLCSD’s files.]

Jan 3, 2013 – Whitson given the go ahead to install new 5 HP pump and plumb it into the system correctly. Board discussed long-range needs such as replacing the 6” water mains.

Feb 4, 2013 – Board discussed adding another tank to the system that would go on south end of Roundhouse. Would need to obtain an easement, as tank would be on private property. It is thought the new 5 HP should last 5-20 years. Discussed painting the exposed pipes at the well site to show which convey treated water, and which raw well water.

Dec 5, 2013 – Board approved a new construction connection fee of \$5,000 to reflect the actual cost to the district for adding a new connection.

Apr 17, 2014 – Board contemplates adding a standpipe at edge of well site fence for Cal Fire to use to fill a truck with water.

Nov 10, 2014 – Board discussed the following, but did not prioritize.

- provide steel [galvanized or stainless?] protective cover over newest well (\$2,000)
- replace generator (\$20,000)
- add third 5,000-gallon poly tank (\$5K for tank, \$5K to install)
- upgrade outside electric lines (\$3,000)
- add standpipe for Cal Fire
- new pump for well (\$5,000)
- new meters to replace those old or damaged (\$1,550 each including install)
- stabilize exterior pipes against earthquakes

Jan 9, 2015 – Discussed providing a pipe and standpipe so Cal Fire can draw raw water from well. Need to clear up brush and slash around well site.

Oct 29, 2015 – Chlorinator is only one year old and isn’t functioning properly. Manual addition of chlorine is necessary. Consider buying and installing a second, backup chlorinator. There has been some “mischief and vandalism” around well site.

Dec 9, 2015 – During this period of drought the system is serving 60+ people at about 70 gallons a day per person.

Nov 3, 2016 – A contractor working for Suddenlink sliced into the 6” water main on Oct 5. 80,000-100,000 gallons of water were lost as a result of the breach, and the chlorine flush performed after the repair. Hooven’s bill was \$7,213.04, and was eventually paid through an insurance settlement.

Sep 16&17, 2018 – A leak from a cracked PVC coupling on the 2.5” pipe between the well site and the school was identified, after hours of searching, and professionally repaired. The leak occurred on the slope just beneath the well site.

Dec 2018 - Jan 2019 – A leak in the system is suspected due to higher than normal consumption. The leak is isolated to the PVC pipe going to the school.

Jan 22 & 23, 2019 – After many hours of searching the leak is discovered at 184 Big Lagoon Park Road. An elbow coupling in the 2.5” PVC pipe where the pipe turned toward the school had cracked. The break was professionally repaired. It is unknown how much water was lost due to this break in the pipe.

Oct 12, 2019 – Board passes Resolution #19-02: “We, the Board of Directors of Big Lagoon Community Services District, find that the Western 320 acres of Section 24, Township 9 North, Range 1 West, Humboldt Baseline and Meridian, are critically important to our water quality and supply. We request to be notified of any County, State, Federal, or Tribal activities or private permit applications within this prescribed area that may impact our indispensable community water supply.” Resolution was sent to 5th District Supervisor Steve Madrone.

Nov 2019 – Due to experiencing more frequent and longer power outages, the Board replaces the 250 gallon propane tank with a 500 gallon tank.

Jan 11, 2020 – A leak at the school results in a loss of 10,000 to 12,000-gallons of water.

Nov 12 & 13, 2020 – Manual submersible pump switch not turned off resulting in 50,300 gallons of water being pumped from the main well over two days. Subtracting 5,000 gallons per day consumption, over 40,000 gallons of water lost. This was a repeat of what happened on May 27, 2012, and reported in the July 3, 2012 meeting minutes.

Dec 5, 2020 – The casing of the 8” (#2) well was brushed in an effort to improve production, but was not successful. The well produced 0.67 GPM and the pump would shut down after two minutes. At another time, a box in the electrical panel shorted out causing the primary (#3) well pump to stop. As a result the tanks emptied out due to normal consumption, and the 5 HP pump burned out from pumping air. Whitson was called, swapped out the damaged pump with a spare pump, made adjustments to the electrical panel, and later rebuilt the damaged pump. A test shelter was added to the well site to facilitate testing during inclement weather. A member of the district expressed concern about the lack of water storage for fire suppression.