



Perkins County Rural Water System Inc.

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The Board of Directors and staff of Perkins County Rural Water System Inc wanted to inform you about the changes occurring in 2020 and beyond. During the November 14th, 2019 regular board meeting, the Board set the rates for the coming year. The new water rate of 2020 is set at \$7.72 per 1,000 gallons. This rate accounts for the increase in the purchase price of water from Southwest Water Authority for 2019 and 2020 which was higher than anticipated. The availability charges remain unchanged for another year at \$65.00 per month for residential and \$375.00 per year for pasture/seasonal cabins. Also, the bulk water rate will remain the same for 2020 at \$18.00 per 1,000 gallons. Bulk water can be purchased at the Prairie City Fire Hall and at the Lodgepole Fire Hall. This is done on the honors system with each person using the provided clip board to note your purchased water. Any unaccounted for water is charged to the respective Fire Department so it is in everyone's best interest to be honest and keep the cost to the Fire Departments low.

Another change beginning in January 2020 is the Automatic Meter Reading Fee (AMR Fee) of \$2.50 per month will be charged in January 2020 for the entire year (12 x \$2.50 = \$30.00) for each Pasture/Seasonal location. This was a customer stated request and we feel it is a good time to make the change. The residential AMR will continue to be billed each month along with the monthly availability charge.

Additionally the Board and Staff feel that it would be less confusing for all involved to change the billing cycle for all Pasture/Seasonal locations to January of each year. Each location would have a billing cycle of January to December rather than April to March. Consequently, each Pasture/Seasonal location billing will be prorated in 2020 to account for 9 months (April to December) for a total of \$281.25 ($\$375/12 = \$31.25 \times 9 = \281.25) which will be billed in March and due by April 15th, 2020. Then in January 2021, you will be billed for the annual fee of \$375.00. The board and staff have been asked why we bill in April along with property taxes and the IRS so we feel it will be beneficial to move our payment date away from April when these other costs are due.

We also wanted to review your payment options. PCRWS has monthly and yearly billing options to fit your needs. We also have budget billing available to all customers. Budget billing allows customers to know exactly what they will be paying each month. This amount is based on the current rate and fee schedule as well as a 2 year average of water usage. Budget billing is billed monthly and is available to all customers upon request. PCRWS will now wait to send out bills until they reach a value of \$25.00. It is the hope this will reduce our costs of printing statements as well as the cost to the customer of returning and paying small bills. All accounts will be billed in November of each year to clear all accounts even if they are below \$25.00 at that time.

Did you know you can make your payments online via our online payment portal or app? Visit our website www.pcrws.com and click the "View and Pay Your Bill Online" button to get signed up through our payment provider Payment Service Network. You can also download the Payment Service Network app and view and pay your bill any time on your phone.

Have you signed up for leak alerts yet? You can view your water usage and know when you have continuous flow on your computer or your phone. Visit our website, www.pcrws.com and click "View your water usage" or "Sign up for Beacon" to begin seeing your daily usage online. You can also download the Eye On Water app and have easy access on your phone.

The 2019 Water Quality Report is available in our office as well as on our website under "Information" "2019 Water Quality Report" or by visiting <http://denr.sd.gov/des/dw/PDF/DWQPDFs/2228ccr.pdf>. Thank you for your patronage and for helping to bring quality water to Perkins County.

