

### What's going on - Issue No. 3

#### BALD EAGLE VILLAGE –

The brown water at Bald Eagle Village continues to be a top priority. The MUA has replaced the media in sand filters at a cost of \$24,000. The sand filters are designed to remove iron and other particulate matter from the drinking water before it is put into the distribution system. The media had not been changed in over 20 years and has allowed iron to infiltrate the water distribution system (holding tank and water piping) resulting in brown water. The MUA has been flushing the iron from the system. More recently, the MUA has ordered professionally engineered flushing procedures, so the flushing can continue as effectively as possible. Further, we have ordered our operator to flush the water tower where residue may have settled over the years.

We encourage the residents of Bald Eagle Village to keep us informed of the water conditions via E-mail to the MUA website. In this way, we can track where particulates may be settling in the piping system.

#### FUTURE OF THE MUA

Representatives of the MUA and New Jersey Department of Environment Protection (“DEP”) continue to meet to discuss this Board of Commissioners’ progress in determining the future of the MUA. We have done an enormous amount of research to understand what has happened in the past to determine what can be done in the future. These discussions included the need, but possible inability of the MUA to secure private and/or public loans to fund all the necessary capital improvements. Other sources of revenue need to be identified to achieve this goal. Further his MUA is preparing a Sustainability Study through our professionals. The goal of the Sustainability Study is identifying other sources of revenue, along with the potential viability of sale of the MUA.

It is the goal of the MUA to complete the Sustainability Study within the next two months. At the suggestion of DEP representatives, the MUA seeks to schedule a meeting with the Department of Community Affairs, Bond Counsel and the appropriate representatives from the MUA and West Milford Township to further discuss the sale of the possibility of the sale of the MUA.

The DEP and MUA maintain the position that the Township of West Milford bears some accountability for the current state and future of the MUA, as the MUA was created by Township Council by resolution and the Township Council has the responsibility to appoint commissioners.

Shortly after our appointments as Commissioners, this Board was asked to bring about much needed change with the mutual goal of public and environmental health and safety. While we believe we have made significant improvements in Operations, many of the problems we inherited are large than the MUA and collaboration with the Township and the State is required to protect the health and safety of our 1700 user households. Without the assistance of the Township and the State, options for infrastructure and service improvements appear to be out of reach. In May 2012, the MUA asked the Township Council for two volunteers to work with us on the issue of the sustainability of the MUA. This request was not fulfilled. As each day moves forward, the possible DEP fines remain an issue and the infrastructure continues to age. We no longer have the option to contemplate these issues; action is needed. Now is the time for the MUA and the Township Council to demonstrate accountability and leadership, and work together to correct these serious problems for the betterment of the environment and all Township residents.

The Township Council, by resolution, has instructed the MUA to provide quarterly reports. We have done so. The information in this Issue of What's Going On, is part of that report. We await the Council's response and will keep you informed.