

# Lake of the Woods Mutual Company

Website: <https://www.lakeofthewoodswater.com/>

## October 2024 Newsletter

**Operating hours – Monday to Friday 9-3. Closed all federal holidays.**

**Payments** - Just a reminder that Lake of the Woods only accepts cash, checks or money orders. Checks need to be made out to Lake of the Woods Mutual Water Co Inc. You can also send checks through your bank account through their Bill Pay or Pay Bills function. Please allow 5 days for them to get it to us. We do not take posted checks; all payments are recorded and deposited during operating hours. We do not take Credit Card payments for a couple of reasons, one is the cost to have credit card payments available, second the cyber security liability with Credit card payments also increases our insurance cost. We have investigated customer portals for customers to see their accounts online but the cost to set that up is over \$11,000 plus an annual membership is \$5500/year. If you have questions about your account, please call the office.

**Grant funds** - are only able to be used for pre-approved items that the grant provider, in this case CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD with fund from prop 68, has signed off on. We do not get 3.5 million to use on whatever we want. Invoices must be submitted and all supporting documentation to show that the work was done needs to be reviewed by the State before they send us the money to pay for those invoices. The funds cannot be used to cover the cost of repaving ALL the roads. Only the portion of the road that Kern County Public Works permitted to be repaved can be paid for with grant funds.

**Bylaw** - Renters are not Shareholders and are not eligible to the rights that a property OWNER/Shareholder has. The bylaws are located on our website.

**Bills** – Bills are generated on the last day of the month during operating hours. They are stuffed and mailed on the first operating day of the month. Payments are due the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month or the first operating day after that. We only drop bills off at the Frazier Park post office, it is then sent to Santa Clarita to be sorted. You can call the office at (661) 245-1448 to get your total bill amount anytime.

**Budgeting** - To receive grants we must show we are being fiscally responsible with our company. We need to show that we have an audit done that meets the GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles). We have had an audit every year since 2019. We also need to set money aside for Capital improvements, which means setting aside money each month to cover any future replacement of the infrastructure the grant funds have paid for and our system in general, plus operating costs.

**Grant updates** – We are wrapping up the line replacement grant within the next month. We have also just been approved for a grant to purchase and install two automated backup generators for the wells and are working on another grant to replace more of our leaking pipeline. BUT there are no guarantees we will continue to receive grants to pay for other major structures within our system.

Our next 2 **Board of Directors Meetings** are on Wednesday November 6 and December 4 at 10:00am. If you want to attend in person, please submit a written/verbal request 24 hours in advance as space is limited. Attendance via Teleconference for shareholders is not limited: Zoom.com phone #669-900-912, Id# 825 6479 4298 or at our office 3534 Mt. Pinos Way Frazier Park, Ca 93225. For more information, please contact Pam Jarecki, Office Manager, Lake of the Woods Mutual Water Company at (661) 245-1448 or the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water at (661) 335-7315.

Thank you,  
Board of Directors,

Joan Kotnik – President, Daryl Beckstrand, Vice President/ Treasurer, Mary Dreier, Secretary, Stanley Eisman, Director & Martin Morehouse, Director