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Terry Armistead  
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## LET'S TALK WATER

Minturn will be presented with the findings from the recently completed water production analysis. These findings will be the beginning of many upcoming public conversations regarding Minturn water production and how to best meet the needs of an anticipated growing population. Minturn is legally required to supply water service to any users within the town service area. Minturn's current water treatment plant is almost 80 years old (it was installed in the 1940's) and it's time to determine its remaining lifespan and how much water it can be expected to produce. With the answers to these questions, Minturn can begin planning for the needs of the community moving forward.

### QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

These are questions Town Hall has received thus far regarding water production and service in Minturn.

**Is Minturn going to sell its water rights?** – No, the Council is NOT considering selling Minturn's water rights. The sale of water rights can only be approved by the vote of the people. (MMC Article X Section 10.8 – Town Charter; Sale of Utilities)

**Is Minturn giving its water system to the District?** – No, the Council is NOT considering allowing the District to take over Minturn's water system. (MMC Article X Section 10.8 – Town Charter; Sale of Utilities)

Additionally, the Council is actively passing 1041 Regulations which will further strengthen Minturn's ability to NOT allow 3<sup>rd</sup> party water lines through town.

**Minturn already has one of the highest monthly water rates in the valley, if Battle Mountain development is approved, is this going to add to the already high rate for existing customers or will the new development have to pay for upgrades for their needs?** – Battle Mountain would be required to pay for upgrades for their needs, however the town also needs to make improvements to the aging water treatment system or look at alternative options – both of which will come with expenses.

**Has the water consultant taken into consideration drought years?** - Yes, drought years have been considered in the analysis.

**Can our current water system handle a large development being added to it?** - The analysis specifically reviewed the ability of our current water system to handle an increased population

under three different growth scenarios which include Battle Mountain. Our current system can only handle a small amount of growth without needing significant upgrades.

**Does Minturn have a backup plan should there be a natural disaster in the Cross Creek watershed? For example, a forest fire could compromise the quality of the incoming water to a degree such that the slow sand filtration system could not treat.** – No, Minturn currently has no back-up plan should the Cross Creek water source become unavailable.

**What is an inter-connect?**

An inter-connect has been proposed by Battle Mountain as a possible long-term solution. The concept would be a water line from the Minturn system to Dowd Junction and connect with the District to allow for Minturn to purchase water on a wholesale basis (Minturn would keep all its water rights and the water system). More study would be needed to evaluate this option, but it would negate the need to pay for a new water treatment plant and also provide Minturn with a backup water source in case of emergency or natural disaster in the Cross Creek watershed. Council understands the importance of hearing from residents directly before any steps would be taken to consider in further detail.

**If Battle Mountain goes away, will Minturn still need to upgrade its water treatment plant?** – Yes, regardless of the Battle Mountain development, Minturn will need to address the need for increased water production.

**NEXT STEPS: WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM EVALUATION**

**Objective:**

Identify recommended improvements (and associated costs) to the Town's water distribution system facilities (pumping systems, transmission/distribution lines, control valves, and water storage facilities) required based on consideration of asset renewal needs, system hydraulic performance, and future growth needs. Growth scenarios will include projected infill only, infill plus Phase 1 Battle Mountain development, and long-term buildout.