


SYSTEM SPOTLIGHT



DEER
CREEK



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Deer Creek Water Corporation, also known as “DCWC,” is definitely an enterprising water system. DCWC was formed in 1970 by a group of individuals who saw a need to provide water to a growing community and school district.

The original Board of Directors and employees consisted of President, Vincent Lawson, Vice President, Jim Murphy, Secretary and Treasurer, Merrill Blair, member, Frank Murphy, member, Jess McCune, System Operator, Terry Walker and Secretary and Bookkeeper, Helen Walker.

These individuals, along with volunteers in the community and their engineers, Ralph O'Donnell and Gene Myers, began the initial construction with an estimated cost of \$438,000. Of the cost, \$418,000 was a loan from the Farmer Home Administration. This enabled DCWC to install approximately 460,000 feet of pipe and two wells into their community. In fact, DCWC was the first rural water system to come into existence in Oklahoma County, which gained attention from the Daily Oklahoman.

Although the system started out with about 90 miles of water lines, two wells and 378 members, they have continued to grow. Due to

this growth, they now have two standpipes, one elevated tower, more than 140 miles of water line (ranging from 2” to 12”), 15 wells, a district office, warehouse, vehicles and equipment for installations and repairs. In addition, DCWC currently has 2,415 members and three additional wells will be in service soon. DCWC serves members in four counties, including Oklahoma, Logan, Canadian and Kingfisher and their boundaries meet up with Oklahoma City, Edmond, Cashion and Piedmont.



This growth could not have been possible without a combined total of 171 years of experience and forward thinking of the current Board of Directors and employees. This includes President, Melvin Lawson (son of original President), Vice President, Larry Blair (son of original Secretary and Treasurer), Secretary

and Treasurer, Maudean Wakefield, member, Darryl Hay, member, David Miller, System Manager, Debbie Wells-Bethel, Field Manager, Ron Jacox, Office Manager, Sue Hampton, Field Operator, Allen Payton, Field Operator, Steve Osgood and System Apprentice, Chris Chavez.



DCWC, along with their current engineer, Bill Myers (son of Gene Myers), have brought in a new era of improvements and convenience for their members and streamlined their operations. In 2000, the system began reading meters rather than customers reading, which took three people one week to do. In 2013, they installed AMR meters that allow two people with two laptops to read more than 2,400 meters in one day. These meters also allow for reporting of hourly water use to assist in leak detection. In addition, over the years, the system went from a paper ledger system to a computer based utility billing and general ledger programs.

DCWC's website, deercreekwatercorp.com, allows members to pay their bills online, view their history and even view the GPS location of their meter. The website also contains valuable information to its members, such as, annual CCR's (Customer Confidence Report, AKA Water Quality Report), district by-laws, rules and regulations, rate and policies forms and reports, alerts and more.



Along with the forward thinking process, DCWC has developed a Long Range Plan (LRP), that consists of a 20 year Master Plan, including 18 more wells, at least one more standpipe, border mains to be 8" to 12" and looping lines. They also have reserve accounts for future projects, a depreciation account and standard operating procedures for their office operations.

I think it is safe to say that you can not reach this point of successful productivity without a few awards. DCWC's awards include ORWA Outstanding Operator of the Year, 2003, Ron Jacox, 3rd Place ORWA Water Taste Test, 2008, Deer Creek Water Corporation, ORWA Outstanding Manager of the Year, 2017, Debbie Wells-Bethel and ORWA Outstanding System of the Year, 2017, Deer Creek Water Corporation.

DCWC's Board of Directors and employees have had and continue to have the enterprising spirit that any size water system should strive for. Thank you Deer Creek Water Corporation for all of your hard work and congratulations on your achievements!