TOWN · OF
WATERVILLE
VALLEY · NH

August 30, 2016

To All Users, Waterville Valley Water District

Re: Low Water Levels – Voluntary Reductions in Water Use

Dear Water System User:

Here in Waterville Valley, as in the rest of the State of New Hampshire, we continue to experience abnormally dry conditions. While we have had some rain here in Town the amount of precipitation that we have had over the past several months has been far below normal. The State Department of Environmental Services has asked communities across the state to consider instituting at least voluntary conservation measures to help reduce water use and ensure that we have adequate water levels in the event that the dry conditions continue.

The Waterville Valley Board of Selectmen has voted to enact a voluntary conservation program effective immediately. The Board asks that all water users reduce or eliminate outdoor water use (washing cars, watering lawns and plants, etc.) and take steps to reduce indoor water use. Enclosed with this letter is an Environmental Protection Agency sheet with information on steps that you can take around your home to reduce water use.

We are hopeful that the dry conditions will end soon. However, if they persist the Selectmen may have to take additional steps to strengthen our water conservation program. We will send out further notices to let you know if there are changes to this voluntary program in the future.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us conserve our water resources. Everyone's efforts can help make an important and significant difference. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the Town Office at ph. (603) 236-4730.

Sincerely,

Mark F. Decoteau
Town Manager

Post Office Box 500
Waterville Valley
New Hampshire 03215
(603) 236-4730

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Water (4204)
EPA832-F-99-082
April 2000
www.epa.gov/owm/genwave.htm

EPA

Using Water Efficiently: Ideas for Residences

Efficient water use can have major environmental, public health, and economic benefits by helping to improve water quality, maintain aquatic ecosystems, and protect drinking water resources. Efficient use of water, through behavioral, operational, or equipment changes, if practiced broadly can help mitigate the effects of drought. Efficiency measures can also save the homeowner money on their water and energy bills. This list of measures is not meant to be comprehensive, but rather a starting point. Other sources of information on water efficiency are available through EPA's web site (http://www.epa.gov/OWM/genwave.htm), and innumerable other sources, some of which may be accessed through the EPA web site, or through WaterWiser, The Water Efficiency Clearinghouse (http://www.waterwiser.org).

Bathroom — where over half of all water use inside a house takes place:

- Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Take short showers instead of tub baths. Turn off the water while soaping or shampooing.
- If you must use a tub, close the drain before turning on the water and fill the tub only half full. Bathe small children together.
- Never use your toilet as a waste basket.

Kitchen and Laundry — simple practices that save a lot of water:

- Keep drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cool.
- Wash fruits and vegetables in a basin. Use a vegetable brush.
- Do not use water to defrost frozen foods; thaw in the refrigerator overnight.
- Scrape, rather than rinse, dishes before loading into the dishwasher; wash only full loads.
- Add food wastes to your compost pile instead of using the garbage disposal.
- Wash only full loads of laundry or use the appropriate water level or load size selection on the washing machine.

Equipment — homes with high-efficiency plumbing fixtures and appliances save about 30% of indoor water use and yield substantial savings on water, sewer, and energy bills:

- Consider purchasing high-efficiency toilets, or place a plastic container filled with water in the tank of your conventional toilet. Be sure it does not interfere with operation of the toilet's flush mechanisms.
- Install low-flow faucet aerators and showerheads.
- Consider purchasing a high efficiency washing machine which can save over 50% in laundry water and energy use.
- Repair all leaks. A leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons per day. To detect leaks in the toilet, add food coloring to the tank water. If the colored water appears in the bowl, the toilet is leaking. Toilet repair advice is available at <www.toiletology.com/index.shtml>.

Landscape Irrigation — depending on climate, up to 75% of a home's total water use during the growing season is for outdoor purposes (During drought conditions outdoor watering restrictions may be imposed, so some of the following tips will not apply.):

- Detect and repair all leaks in irrigation system.
- Use properly treated wastewater for irrigation where available.
- Water the lawn or garden during the coolest part of the day (early morning is best). Do not water on windy days.
- Water trees and shrubs, which have deep root systems, longer and less frequently than shallow-rooted plants that require smaller amounts of water more often. Check with the local extension service for advice on watering needs in your area.
- Set sprinklers to water the lawn or garden only – not the street or sidewalk.
- Use soaker hoses or trickle irrigation systems for trees and shrubs.
- Install moisture sensors on sprinkler systems.
- Use mulch around shrubs and garden plants to reduce evaporation from the soil surface and cut down on weed growth.
- Remove thatch and aerate turf to encourage movement of water to the root zone.
- Raise your lawn mower cutting height – longer grass blades help shade each other, reduce evaporation, and inhibit weed growth.
- Minimize or eliminate fertilizing, which promotes new growth needing additional watering.
- When outdoor use of city or well water is restricted during a drought, use the water from the air conditioning condenser, dehumidifier, bath, or sink on plants or the garden. Don't use water that contains bleach, automatic-dishwashing detergent or fabric softener.

Other Outdoor Uses:

- Sweep driveways, sidewalks and steps rather than hosing off.
- Wash the car with water from a bucket, or consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- When using a hose, control the flow with an automatic shut-off nozzle.
- Avoid purchasing recreational water toys which require a constant stream of water.
- Consider purchasing a new water-saving swimming pool filter.
- Use a pool cover to reduce evaporation when pool is not being used.
- Do not install or use ornamental water features unless they recycle the water. Use signs to show the public that water is recycled. Do not operate during a drought.