

CLWD approves rate hike on this month’s water

Price tag for multi-phase expansion continues to climb toward \$70 million

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden-Livingston County Water District (CLWD) leaders last week reviewed system repairs, upcoming projects and financial matters during their November board meeting, where members also approved a temporary moratorium on new water line extensions.

Maintenance and Distribution Supervisor Jared Franklin reported that leak activity has begun to settle after a busy few months. He said crews handled 20 service repairs and 12 main repairs in October. M&G Services is continuing meter installations and was expected to help repair a leak on the 12-inch Wilson Hill line.

Superintendent Abbie Adamson said water-loss figures reflect recent progress. Losses measured 32 percent in September and dropped to 26.5 percent in October. She said crews had repaired every

known leak except the Wilson Hill line and expects loss percentages to improve once all monthly figures are finalized.

Plant Manager Von Summers said the new clearwell continues to make a noticeable impact on service to the south side of the Cumberland River. The district sent about 80,000 gallons a day to Marion last month, totaling more than 2 million gallons. Usage is down slightly, which Summers said is typical for this time of year.

Plant operator Denver Robertson announced his intention to retire in February or March but expressed willingness to stay on part-time as needed.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding potential water line extensions. Despite having been awarded several hundred thousand dollars for extension projects, the board approved a moratorium on new line exten-

sions until the district’s expansion project is complete. Engineering on already funded extensions will continue. Officials noted that both Crittenden and Livingston counties still have roadways without public water service, but until the plant is capable of meeting demands, there will be no build out of new lines.

Project consultant Tim Thomas said zone monitoring and leak-repair initiatives are eligible uses for the district’s available funding. Approximately \$700,000 to \$800,000 could be redirected to those efforts. While CLWD cannot move forward with new line extensions at this time, he said roughly \$700,000 remains available and about \$116,000 may be at risk of being returned to the state if not used. Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom suggested that some of those funds could go toward design work for future distribution lines to avoid sending money back.

In other action, the board

formally approved the 13.07 percent water-rate increase previously authorized by the Kentucky Public Service Commission. The new rate structure will be billed in January and reflect usage beginning in December. The adjustment is expected to generate about \$402,000 in additional annual revenue for the district. A household using 4,000 gallons per month will see its bill rise from \$67 to about \$75.73.

The PSC’s order also includes approval of revised tap-on fees and a reduction in certain service charges. The standard 5/8-inch residential tap-on fee will increase from \$750 to \$1,950 to more accurately reflect installation costs. Adamson said the district has historically lost money on new connections because labor, materials and compliance expenses exceeded the fee charged.

The rate increase proposal followed a June 2024 study by Kentucky Rural Water Association that concluded the district needed more than

\$500,000 in additional annual revenue to meet projected expenses. PSC staff recommended a slightly smaller adjustment after reclassifying some maintenance work as capital improvements and questioning certain administrative costs.

CLWD serves about 3,700 customers in Crittenden and Livingston counties. Its three-phase expansion project will ultimately double treatment capacity from 2 million to 4 million gallons per day. Capital coninutes to be sought for that multi-phase project. Thomas has been instrumental in raising funds necessary for the broad project. Total grant funding to date equals about \$23 million and low-interest loans amount to \$7.5 million, of which about half will be forgivable. Yet the estimated cost of the overall project continues to increase as costs go up. Right now, the district is looking at a final cost of around \$65 to \$70 million for the entire project.

Livingston EMS, county approved for \$10K grant

STAFF REPORT

Livingston Fiscal Court last week conducted routine business and reported on activities around the county.

Both the fiscal court and Livingston County EMS have been awarded a Kentucky Association of Counties (KACo) grant. Combined, the agencies can receive up to \$10,000. EMS is considering using its portion to purchase lift-assist equipment, and the county plans to apply its share toward new security cameras inside the County Office Building’s common areas and outside the building.

The court approved a request from the Livingston County Chamber of Commerce for a \$300 donation to help purchase equipment for the Christmas in the Courtyard event, and \$1,000 to the local PACS office for Christmas Miracle, a program to help kids with gifts at Christmas.

Judge-Executive Michael Williams told magistrates the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

Fiscal Court

will begin a Smithland Flood Plain Management Service Study to evaluate potential flood-control solutions. The study comes at no cost to the county.

Animal control issues were also discussed after Lyon County’s animal control officer abruptly resigned. Livingston and Crittenden counties are assisting Lyon until a replacement is hired, and officials plan to explore other arrangements. Caldwell County is also without an animal control officer. At the next Livingston Fiscal Court meeting, magistrates are expected to consider increasing the monthly payment to Crittenden County for animal control services. Livingston houses its stray dogs at the Crittenden County Animal Shelter, which has been losing money in recent months.

Road department updates included work on Kelly Drive, where drainage issues were re-

solved. Threlkeld Road concrete work has been completed to prevent further erosion, and new salt brine equipment has been purchased, with hopes of having everything ready in preparation for winter. This should be a cost-saver, as less road salt will be needed. The Vanhooser Road bridge, which is closed after a state inspection, will be replaced with a box culvert. It has arrived, and installation is expected in mid-Dec.

Magistrates last week also approved giving a surplus police cruiser to the City of Grand Rivers, which pays for a Livingston County part-time deputy to patrol the city. The current police cruiser has reached its usability life.

Lastly, the county reported a major cost reduction on its Windstream telecommunications bill, which has dropped from \$1,300 to \$150 per month.

Sandwich Generation 1 in 4 adults are caring for adult, raising a young child

Approximately one in four adults simultaneously cares for someone over age 65 and raises a child under 18, according to a 2023 report in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society. This group is called the “sandwich generation.” With average life expectancy increasing, many middle-aged adults now find themselves caring for both their aging parents and their dependent children at the same time.

The sandwich generation faces normal financial pressures, such as child care and education costs, retirement savings, health care needs and basic living expenses. What makes this population unique is that they have co-occurring responsibilities that often draw from the same limited pool of resources – time, energy and money.

Balancing dual caregiving roles can be challenging, especially with multiple competing priorities. If you are a “sandwiched” adult, consider these tips to reduce the financial stress associated with caring for an aging loved one.

Keep budgets separate

If you provide care for an older adult, it is important to keep their finances separate from yours if they plan to apply for assistance through government agencies.

When applying for benefits, do not hide or transfer a loved one’s assets to qualify, as this can have negative legal consequences. Use your loved one’s resources to pay for their expenses and keep detailed records.

Explore assistance programs

Search for community and government assistance programs that can help with living or medical expenses, long-term care costs, meal delivery



services, transportation to medical appointments and more. Additionally, research local free or low-cost senior programs, senior centers, adult day care options and caregiver support groups.

There are many useful state and national resources you can explore online:

- Medicaid at [medicaid.gov](https://www.medicaid.gov).
- Medicare at [ssa.gov/medicare](https://www.ssa.gov/medicare).
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) at [ssa.gov/ssi](https://www.ssa.gov/ssi).
- Senior Services at [hhs.gov/programs/social-services/programs-for-seniors](https://www.hhs.gov/programs/social-services/programs-for-seniors).

Kentucky Department for Aging and Independent Living at chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dail.

National Aging in Place Council at ageinplace.org.

Seek caregiver support

Dual caregiving can be exhausting. If you feel overwhelmed, remember you are not alone. Talking with a counselor, chaplain or friend can help. Also consider meeting with a financial planner who specializes in eldercare. They can create a financial plan that balances everyone’s needs.

Caregivers may qualify for unpaid time off under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), whcih allows qualifying employees to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave per year to care for an immediate family member. Some employers offer paid eldercare leave options; they may permit you to use sick days or personal leave to care for loved ones, or they might offer shared leave banks for caregiving needs.

For more information about available eldercare and caregiving resources and support, contact the Crittenden County Extension Office at 270-965-5236.

Rebecca L. Woodall is Family Consumer Science Agent in Crittenden County.

Hart’s legacy will lead Marion’s parade

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce’s Legacy Award winner, the late Keith Hart, will be honored posthumously as grand marshal of this year’s Marion Christmas parade. Hart, who died Sept. 16 at age 71, was a longtime community leader, businessman and school board chairman whose impact on Marion stretched across five decades.

A Morganfield native and Murray State graduate, Hart co-owned and operated Marion Feed Mill for more than 40

years alongside his close friend and business partner, Charlie Hunt. He was active in numerous civic organizations, including the Rotary Club, Lions Club, Park Board and the Chamber of Commerce, where he once served as president. He also spent 15 years on the Crittenden County School Board and was instrumental in



Keith Hart

the construction of the current high school gym. Hart coached little league football for many years and was known as “Coach Hart” long after his players grew up.

Hart was honored with its Legacy Award at the Chamber’s annual gala in October. The Legacy Award recipient serves as the holiday parade’s grand marshal.

This year’s parade will honor Hart’s lifelong service to Marion and his dedication to the people and organizations he supported throughout his life.

Baker will serve as Fredonia’s Marshal

STAFF REPORT

Fredonia native Nicky Baker has been selected as this year’s grand marshal for the annual Christmas parade. Baker, a lifelong resident and farmer, is a 1970 graduate of Fredonia High School and has long been active in community projects. He worked with David Williams to develop Woodman Park and later helped add playground equipment.



Nicky Baker

Baker played a key role in reorganizing the Fredonia Riding Club and helped start the Caldwell-Lyon Cattlemen Association, which later inducted him into its State Hall of Fame. He is a member of the Fredonia Heritage Society and an elder at Fredonia Cumberland Presbyterian Church, where he has served in several capacities.

He and his wife, Gary Beth, have been married 43 years. They have two children, CC (Crystal) of Woodstock, Ga., and Nan (Chris) Watson of Fredonia, and six grandchildren who call him “Papa.”

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band and other activities are being kicked around as options.

Local institutions are expected to play a significant role, including the Crittenden County Historical Museum and Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum. An Early American

Heritage group could create a Revolutionary War encampment and artifact display.

Indoor programming at Fohs Hall could feature a flag-history presentation, an improv performance based on American themes, a juried art show of public submissions and a Chautauqua-style portrayal of Henry Clay.

Several light-hearted contests have been discussed, including a hot-dog-eating contest and an apple-pie-eating competition.

Organizers expect to refine and finalize events over the coming months as community groups determine their level of participation.

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Jeff Black, members of the CLWD board, CLWD Superintendent Abbie Adamson, CLWD Board Chairman T.L Maddux, consultant Tim Thomas, project engineers and others.

The visits come as the City of Marion and CLWD have secured roughly \$32 million in grants and low-interest loans for ongoing and planned water projects. Only about \$3.5 million of that total will require repayment by CLWD.

CCLEPC PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice: Crittenden County Local Emergency Planning Committee (CCLEPC), pursuant to Section 324, Title III (3) of the 1986 Federal Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986, 42 U.S.C. 11001 ET,SEQ., the following information is provided in compliance with the Community Right to Know requirements of the SARA Law and the Open Meetings and Open Records Provisions of KRS 61.800, 61.805, 61.810, 61.823, 61.826, 61.835. Members of the public may contact the Crittenden County Local Emergency Planning Committee (CCLEPC) by writing Mr. Jason Hurley, Chairman of the Crittenden County Local Emergency Planning Committee (CCLEPC) at, 200 Industrial Dr., Ste. A, Marion, KY 42064 or contact by phone at (270) 965-5251. The Crittenden County Local Emergency Planning Committee (CCLEPC) conducts meetings at 275 Industrial Dr., Marion, KY or at other locations, in accordance with the KY Open Meetings Law. Members of the public may request to be notified of regular or special meetings as provided in KRS 61.820.

Records of the planning committee, including the county emergency response plan, safety data sheets, and inventory forms, or any follow-up emergency meeting notice may subsequently be issued, are open for inspection, and members of the public who wish to review these records may do so 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., CST, M-F, at 200 Industrial Dr., Ste. A, Marion, KY 42064 as required by the KY Open Records Law. The local 24-hour telephone number for purposes of emergency notification, as required by SARA Law, is (270) 965-3500.