

## CHILSON/EAGLE LAKE Q&A

Q. I thought we were in a water district?

A. No, the Chilson and Eagle Lake water users are not in a district. All users in the Chilson/Eagle Lake area are what are known as “out of district users” or “contract users”. That contract can be terminated by agreement. When you are in a district, there is no contract and the water service cannot be terminated. That said, continuing water service even in a district can result in higher user fees of course.

Q. We’ve always received water, doesn’t the Town have to continue to provide water?

A. Pursuant to State and Federal law, as well as the Consent Decree entered in US District Court with the Federal Government (EPA, Department of Justice) in July of 2018, either compliant water has to be provided, which would require a district, or users must revert to private supply. The Town is committed to assisting with the water supply but it has to be user initiated. That means you.

Q. Some of us have water rights in our deed. What happens if the drinking water from Gooseneck ends?

A. If that supply of water ends, as it legally must by 2025, the obligation to supply water similarly ends. In fact, the right is not one of supply, it is one of access. In concept, those with such rights may be able to continue access, but the costs would be prohibitive (dam maintenance, pipeline maintenance, etc.)

Q. It is difficult to know how to answer unless we know the true cost. When will we know that?

A. That is likely the multi-million dollar question. The issue is, we cannot apply for grant funding until we have a district. There are virtually no programs we can seek that do NOT require a district. So, it is certainly a bit of a leap of faith. The engineers have ballparked costs. Those costs are not cheap. But until we have an idea of who is “in” for municipal water, and who is “out”, unfortunately we are at a bit of a stall.

Q. Is this usual?

A. Unfortunately yes. With the grant programs (if we can even get grants), there is a point in a project where there are estimates, and they are just that, estimates. We then go forward to try to secure grant funding to bring that cost down but that is never a guarantee of course. The Town fought for years for grants for the well project. We envision the same for Chilson and Eagle Lake.