

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRIVATE WELL OWNERS DURING WATER RESTRICTIONS

Current estimates indicate there are nearly 500 private irrigation wells in Pinehurst, NC. Most of these wells, located on private property, were installed between 1990 and 2000 as a response to the increase in irrigation water costs from MCPU (Moore County Public Utilities) as well as insuring a consistent source of irrigation during the frequent water restrictions in the 80's, 90's. Most of the wells are used to irrigate lawns and ornamentals of private homeowners. Each of these wells required a sizable financial investment of several thousand dollars.

According to state law homeowners have legal rights to water that lies beneath their land. The only limiting factor for homeowners in Pinehurst who wish to drill a well is the restrictions the Village enacted in order to protect public water wells in the form of prohibiting private wells within a 2000 foot radius of municipal water supply wells.

When MCPU enacts water restrictions on their customers their restrictions are not applicable or enforceable on private well owners. MCPU has recommended during these times that well owners do some measure of cutback.

The Pinehurst Water Conservation committee respects the legal rights of private well owners. We also realize that without these private wells the demand on the MCPU system would be much greater. Both municipal wells and private wells in Pinehurst pull water from the Middendorf aquifer.

Fortunately, MCPU over the past several years has added other sources of potable water from Southern Pines (surface water), Aberdeen (wells), Harnett County (surface water), as well as additional new wells in Pinehurst and more planned.

Also, MCPU participates in a Cooperative Water Resource monitoring network program with the US Geological Service. It is called the "Groundwater Level Monitoring Network" and it monitors, in real time, the groundwater levels of the Middendorf aquifer, at 5 locations in the Village of Pinehurst and 1 in Seven Lakes.

We would like to make private well owners aware of the levels of restrictions that MCPU imposes at various stages of water shortages in order to reduce the strain on the Middendorf aquifer.

The current **Water Shortage Response Plan from MCPU for their customers:**

Stage 1-20% reduction in normal use

Stage 2-30% reduction of their previous month's bill

Stage 3-40% reduction of their previous month's bill

Stage 4-50% reduction of their previous month's bill

Stage 5-water use at the minimum required for public health protection

Also, there are financial surcharges that begin in Stage 3

Stage 3-1.5 times the normal rate

Stage 4-2 times the normal rate

Stage 5-5 times the normal rate

**Suggestions for private well owners from Pinehurst Water Conservation Committee for ongoing water conservation:**

Install a rain sensing device that will shutoff automatic systems following rainfall

Hand water dry areas with a hose in order to avoid running the entire system

Have your system checked annually by a professional to determine proper nozzle sizes, coverage, run times, leaks, and proper clock operation.

Determine if your clock has multiple programs. This feature allows turf and landscape plants to water on separate schedules, as they have different water requirements.

Observe your system operating periodically and note deficiencies.

Water between the hours of 4am and 8am.

**When MCPU has initiated water shortage response plans-recommendations for private well owners:**

Stage 1-normal use- however adhere to the above suggestions

Stage 2-15% normal water use reduction

Stage 3-25% normal water use reduction

Stage 4-35% normal water use reduction

Stage 5- 50% normal water use reduction

These reductions can be easily implemented since most automatic irrigation systems have the ability to dial back water times by a percentage.

Pinehurst is fortunate to be in an area that averages 48 inches of rainfall annually. Also, water restrictions are becoming less of an issue due to the increase in new water sources secured by MCPU. In addition, real estate development has slowed and the number of new homes has decreased thereby reducing increased demand..

We all have a responsibility to protect our water assets, use them prudently, and insure sustainability for now and in the future.

Thank you for your cooperation

Pinehurst Water Conservation Committee-November 2011

