

of wastewater charges a year. Thus, payback could be realized in two to four years.

Payback would likely be much sooner if a Clear Water Meter is installed during new home construction (new construction installation vs. retrofit cost is less and first year's water usage for establishing a lawn is usually higher).

A 10-day rental fee is \$15.00 and would require consumption of about 3,800 gallons just to break even (not including personal time and travel value for two trips to the WPCF).

The 45-day rental fee would require about 10,000 gallons before any net savings would occur.

### Existing Deduct Meters

Existing Permanent Clear Water Meters piped in the "Deduct" configuration may remain for the time being.

Customers will be required to read and communicate these Deduct Meter readings to the City's Treasury Department in City Hall for manual billing adjustment (no automatic system).

### Portable Kit Rentals

Portable meters may be rented where a meter is needed for a short period of time. For example, filling a pool or watering a new lawn. Rental periods may be either 10 days at a cost of \$15 plus \$40 deposit or 45 days at a cost of \$40 plus a \$40 deposit. Kits are available from the City's Water Pollution Control Facility during regular business hours.



555 Willowbrook Road

608-364-2888

[www.beloitwi.gov](http://www.beloitwi.gov)

1-1-18

# Clear Water Meter Program

## City of Beloit

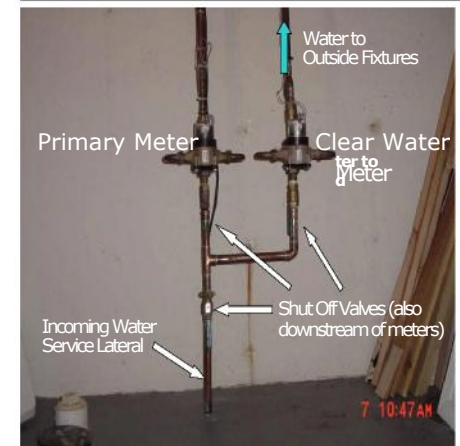
*Department of Public Works*

### Water Resources Division

555 Willowbrook Road

608-364-2888

### Addition Method Permanent CWM



## **Why a Clear Water Meter?**

Wastewater (sewer) service charges are typically based upon the volume of water measured from your Utility water meter, referred to as the Primary Water Meter under City Ordinance Chapter 29.05(3). Some customers use water outside their structure(s) for property maintenance, gardens, filling swimming pools, etc. where water does not later enter the sanitary sewer system. Let's refer to this outside use water as "Clear Water".

## **Accounting For Clear Water**

Over time, there have been a variety of ways to account for Clear Water. Prior to the purchase of the Water Utility by the City "Summer Averaging" was utilized to calculate sewer bills. October through April monthly average water usage set May through September monthly wastewater volume for billing.

During Alliant Energy's ownership, some customers purchased and plumbed in "Deduct Meters" so the City could credit the wastewater charge according to actual Clear Water usage.

In 2003, coupled with a 10% rate reduction for residential wastewater fees, summer averaging was eliminated by the City, leaving a secondary meter called the Clear Water Meter (CWM) as the only option to achieve wastewater fee savings. Today, Permanent and Portable Clear Water Meter policies have been established.

## **Permanent Clear Water Meter**

Ideally, the Clear Water Meter is plumbed in a branch of piping ahead of the Primary Water Meter (see photo on pamphlet cover). All piping downstream of the Clear Water Meter goes to fixtures where the water used cannot enter the sewer system. With such a Clear Water Meter, wastewater (sewer) charges are based only on usage from the Primary Meter instead of the total water usage.

## **Automated Meters**

With a Permanent Clear Water Meter, both water meters will have an Automated Meter Reading (AMR) type head and radio transmitter. The AMR and the City's MUNIS customer accounting software systems work together to automatically calculate water and wastewater (sewer) billings. Thus, the customer needs to make no

further effort to receive the effective sewer credit.

## **Portable Rental Kit**

Portable meters may be rented from the City where a meter is needed for a short period of time such as filling a large pool or watering a new lawn. Rental period options are 10 days at a cost of \$15 or 45 days at a cost of \$40. Each has a \$40 deposit; this plus any sewer credit is lost to the customer if the Kit is not returned when due. Customers must also be current on their Utilities account to rent a Kit.

## **Which Option is Right for Me?**

With either the Permanent or Portable Clear Water Meter option savings is derived from the avoidance of the wastewater fee of \$2.95 per unit for water not entering the sewer system. A unit of water or wastewater billing is 100 cubic feet which is equal to 748 gallons.

A typical Permanent Clear Water Meter installation by a licensed plumber costs \$300 to \$600. Six inches of water to irrigate an average lawn in a typical summer would consume approximately 50 units of water. With a Clear Water Meter, this would avoid about \$150