

## **Bogue Banks Water Corporation** Irrigation Meter Policy

As of June 1<sup>st</sup> 2022, Bogue Banks Water Corporation will require all irrigation systems to be billed at a separate higher irrigation rate (see BBWC rates for current amount). This includes both **OLD** and **NEW** irrigation systems. All irrigation systems without a separate irrigation meter, will fall under an alternate billing structure to account for irrigation usage. Customers can choose to have a separate irrigation meter installed or stay on the alternate billing structure as laid out below.

### **Irrigation System Definition.**

Irrigation systems that are included in this policy include any system that has any in-ground components. This includes in-ground or underground sprinkler heads and any associated plumbing. If an above ground sprinkler or drip irrigation system uses a hose or other hard line for water supply and that line is covered by dirt, grass, mulch, or any other covering, it is considered an in-ground system and must adhere to this policy. Manually controlled above ground irrigation methods are not subject to this policy so long as no part, fixture, or plumbing portion is covered.

### **Irrigation Metering.**

June 1<sup>st</sup> all BBWC customers that have an irrigation system requiring a RPZ as defined by our backflow and cross-connection policy will be changed to an alternate billing structure. This alternate billing structure will be applied to your existing primary account in lieu of a separate irrigation meter. The alternate billing structure includes the following:

- Current Base Rate (see current rates for amount)
- An additional irrigation base rate (see current rates for amount)
- Tier 1 and Tier 2 will remain the same usage rates
- Any usage above Tier 2 will be charged at current irrigation usage rates
- Cellular endpoint included with access to 'EyeOnWater' app for water usage monitoring
- Pros: No upfront costs of having to install a separate irrigation meter, RPZ, and associated plumbing costs of switching over the irrigation system to a new irrigation meter.

If a separate irrigation meter is desired over the alternate billing structure above, then one can be purchased and installed at regular rates. There is a 4-6 week lead time on all new meter installations. Please plan accordingly depending on your needs. Upon meter installation, customer must permanently disconnect the irrigation supply from the primary meters supply and connect to the new irrigation meter. The irrigation meter will be billed at the irrigation base and usage rate (see BBWC rates for current amount). The irrigation meter will remain locked until a RPZ is installed and tested per the BBWC cross-connection and backflow policy guidelines. Upon installation and a passing test, the meter will be unlocked, turned on and ready for customer use. The irrigation system must be 100% on the irrigation meter. Proof of removal/reinstallation of the irrigation system from the primary meter to the irrigation meter must be reviewed and approved by a BBWC inspector prior to returning to the normal 5 tier billing structure on the primary meter. Bypasses or any other connection to the primary meter supply are strictly prohibited. Any such instances will be subject to fines outlined below.

### **Alternative options.**

BBWC Inspectors must document and approve all alternative options to be exempt from this policy.

- Abandonment of irrigation system and permanent disconnection from BBWC water supply. Proof must be provided, documented, and approved by a BBWC inspector through an on-site inspection. Any reconnection to the system later must be in conjunction with this policy. Failure to do so will result in fines listed below.
- Change of water source. Permanent disconnection from BBWC water supply required. Other water sources for irrigation may include shallow wells, ponds, or rainwater cisterns. Any reconnection to

the system later must be in conjunction with this policy. Failure to do so will result in fines listed below.

- Above ground drip irrigation systems. As noted in the above definition section, these irrigation systems must be 100% above ground and any coverings. Burying any portion of or using in-ground heads after switching to an above ground system from and in-ground system will result in fines listed below.

#### **Fines.**

Whenever BBWC finds that any person has violated this policy through using a bypassed or unauthorized connection to the primary meter after the initial connection to the irrigation meter has been made, using an irrigation system after it has been disconnected or converting an above ground irrigation system into an in-ground irrigation system, BBWC may serve upon such person a written notice stating the nature of the violation.

The notice of violation will state the time period to correct the problem which shall at a minimum be ten (10) days. If requested, a plan for the satisfactory correction of the violation shall be submitted to BBWC within the time frame specified in the notice. Submission of this plan does not relieve the person of liability for any violations occurring before or after receipt of the notice of violation. In the event of an emergency that requires BBWC to take immediate action to correct the violation, BBWC is not required to provide an opportunity for the violator to correct the violations and may assess penalties and costs pursuant to this section without prior notice.

The notice of violation shall be issued in writing and shall set forth the basis of the violation and assessing the fine as well as the time period to correct said violation.

All notices required by this subsection may be served by certified mail or hand-delivery to the violator; certified mail or hand-delivery to the owner of the property in violation; or posting the notice at the property in violation. When service is made by certified mail, a copy of the notice may also be sent by First Class U.S. Mail. Service shall be deemed sufficient if the notice sent by First Class U.S. Mail is not returned by the U.S. Post office seven (7) days after mailing.

From and after the expiration of the time period specified in the notice of violation for correcting said violation, each subsequent day that the violation continues to exist shall constitute a separate and distinct offence subject to additional fines.

Any appeal from a notice of violation shall be made in writing to the Director of BBWC within twenty (20) days of receipt of the notice of violation issued pursuant hereto. The Director shall use all reasonable efforts to notify the appellant in writing of his or her decision within thirty (30) days of receipt of the notice of appeal. In the event the appeal is denied, all fines shall accrue from the date specified in the notice of violation.

Any *person* who is found to have failed to comply with any provision of this policy or any regulation, standard, rule or order adopted in furtherance of thereof, shall be subject to a fine of \$100.00 per day per violation. For repeat violators, the fine shall be \$250.00 per day per violation. In the event any person violates this policy more than three times, said violator's water meter shall be locked, and water service terminated.

Any person violating any section of this policy must pay to BBWC all expenses incurred in repairing any damage to the water system caused in whole or in part by such violation and any expense incurred by the BBWC.

If BBWC determines that there is an imminent threat to the public water supply created violation of this policy; water service may be discontinued until such violations are corrected.