

Fruitvale WSC

1964-2014

In 1964 several in the community decided a water system was needed for the community.

L.R. Ellis, E.L. Gore, Ray Longman, Jack Sowell and Harold Randall agreed to serve as directors to apply for organization through Farmers Home Administration.

The original membership was \$50.00. Fifty customers were required to sign up and pay the money to start the process.

The first well and distribution plant are located next to the current fire hall.

The need for additional lines and wells was soon recognized by the number of citizens requesting service.

At this time Abe Erwin was serving with the directors as Board President. Mrs. Jane Randall served as bookkeeper.

The monthly rates were \$6.00.

In 1976 Mr. Erwin chose not to serve on the board and Roy Wright became President.

Kennith Brimer and Larry Crawford maintained the system until 1982. At that time Larry became the operator.

During the years, many have maintained the system with mowing, installing meters and repairing leaks.

In 1977 Judy Woodrum began helping Mrs. Randall as secretary and bookkeeper. Mrs. Randall retired from the system in 1979.

In 1981 Farmers Home Administration offered a buy out of loans. With reserved funds the WSC was able to purchase the loans at a reduced rate to be debt free.

By 1984 the system had grown to 750 meters, three wells and two distribution plants.

In 1985 four wells were drilled. The total cost for the four wells, pumps, electric work, lines and supplies, surveyor, lawyer fees and land purchase was 89729.78, which was paid with reserve funds.

In 1991 one well was drilled and in service for \$27,302.83.

To meet TCEQ requirements in 1994 a well, pressure and storage tanks were needed to meet the demands.

A loan was obtained for \$220,000.00 for eight years @ 5.95%. The loan was repaid in five years.

A new office building was constructed in 1995.

In 1999 Johnny Hill was hired to be the operator.

In 2001, a trencher, backhoe, and boring machine were purchased.

2002 saw the need for lines to be upgraded. A \$350,000.00 TCDP grant was awarded from the federal government. The grant provided 10,000 foot of line upgrade.

A Sabine River Authority grant of \$10,000.00 also allowed for line upgrades and a \$250,000.00 grant provided a well, pressure tank and lines.

In 2007 a generator was purchased for power outages and a one ton truck was purchased in 2008.

In 2009 a \$350,000.00 grant drilled an additional well, provided line and storage and pressure tank.

Radio read meters were purchased for the 1100 meters in 2012 and 2013.

Larry Crawford retired in July 2014.

Michael Hale was hired in July as operator.

Previously Sherry Mayne and Staci Jones were employed as office assistants.

Currently Susan Murre is the administrative assistant.

Fruitvale WSC has not been in debt since 2000. Grants have been received to maintain the system to meet requirements.