



Timothy R. Napper
Supervisor
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TOWN OF SARANAC

In the Adirondack Mountains

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Michele Petrashune
Councilor
Tracy Eggleston
Councilor
James Terry
Councilor
Debbie Pellerin
Town Clerk
James Waldron
Highway Superintendent

February 10, 2022

Dear Water District Residents,

There are three water districts within the Town of Saranac. The Redford district is the largest with around 150 users, Standish has just over 50 users and Saranac has less than 50 users. Small districts like ours are severely challenged financially. Daily monitoring, operating costs, expensive testing – some of which cost around \$900.00 – as well as infrastructure costs all make it hard for them to function at a reasonable cost to users.

To help you better understand the situation regarding water user rates I have accessed USDA data showing the average American family pays \$72.93 per month, or approximately \$875.00 per year for their water. None of our rates are at that level.

All of our districts have pressing needs. A study done on the Redford system a few years ago identified needs in excess of \$1 million. Standish upgrades in recent years have left that system struggling with its debt load. The Saranac system struggles in having adequate water supply which will be costly to address. Grant funding to meet these challenges depends on several factors. One critical criterion is the usage charge. Our rates are considered too low to help in obtaining grants. An increase in rates not only helps to build a reserve or reduce the use of current assets for operating expenses, but it will also help increase our access to grant funding. I hope you understand that we do not like to raise water rates, however, at some point there will be substantial capital costs.

The governance of our districts is another factor we need to address. At one time, each district had a functioning water board. By-laws are out of date for all three entities. By default, the town board has managed the districts for some time. It is past time to update the by-laws and get functioning water boards. To begin this process, the town board will host a meeting on February 28, 2022, at 5:00 P.M. at Town Hall. Everyone is urged to attend. We will be seeking volunteers to review by-laws and to serve on water boards.

I hope this information is helpful. I look forward to seeing you on February 28 at 5:00 P.M.

Sincerely yours,

Timothy R. Napper
Supervisor

Annual Water Quality Reports can be viewed at www.townofsaranac.com at the following links:

Redford: <http://www.townofsaranac.com/assets/images/Redford-2021-AWQR-final.pdf>

Standish: <http://www.townofsaranac.com/assets/images/Standish-2021-AWQR-final.pdf>

Saranac: <http://www.townofsaranac.com/assets/images/Saranac-2021-AWQR-final.pdf>

If you would like a paper copy mailed to you, please call us at 518-293-6666 ext. 2

**SAVE THE DATE
WATER DISTRICTS MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2022 5:00 P.M.
AT TOWN HALL**