

February 2, 2018

To: White Bluff Rate Payers

From: White Bluff Rate Payers Committee

Scott Shelton, Marshall Snyder, John Upchurch, John Bass

To all Ratepayers in White Bluff, more importantly, my friends, neighbors, and acquaintances,

For any of you who have ever volunteered to serve others in a public capacity, I am sure you can understand the anguish and uncertainty that goes with writing a letter that will go out to all the folks that you might run across at the grocery store, the local restaurant or any other function where we all might gather. Whitney is a small community after all. What I say here might leave an impression for just a moment or perhaps a lifetime. I will probably never know. So, for now I will settle for the momentary impression and hope it is sufficient.

Over a year ago this WBRP Committee, with your encouragement and generous financial help, set out to right a perceived wrong of a 40% plus Water/Sewer Rate increase. Many perceived this increase as pure greed. We were able to forestall the implementation of the increase for 265 days saving you hundreds of dollars. We endured the seemingly endless boring days of waiting for discovery items from DDU and the "Hearing on the Merits or Lack Thereof". Now, within the next couple of weeks we are expected to receive the recommendation from the (ALJ) Administrative Law Judge in this case. That recommendation will then go before the PUC Board for preliminary hearing. We believe we have a very strong case and we also have a few arrows left in our quiver should we have to use them. For instance, DDU does not have clear title to the property where Well #1 and the Water Tanks are, nor where the Sewer Plant is located. We believe the WBPOA holds the superior title. We think that could present a problem for DDU.

Which brings me to the events of the last few days. Our Rate Expert, Nelissa Heddin, just submitted an invoice for \$20,189.00. This was a three-month combined billing going back to the "Hearing on the Merits" of which comprised almost two thirds of the expense. I checked with John Upchurch about our cash position and was informed that we are \$8400 away from the next \$10,000 matching funds from the WBPOA. Ordinarily I would ask you for a donation and then state that I would be the first to donate by putting in another \$200. I did not feel that action would be enough this time for you to realize the commitment we all have made. So not only did I commit to \$200, but I asked each member on the WBPOA Board, all nine members, to commit the same \$200 and it has been a unanimous response. Now it is up to you. I have been truly amazed at the generosity of the White Bluff Residents to support this cause. We are much closer to the end of this than the beginning. You may drop off a check at the POA office. You may use snail mail to WBRP, PO Box 37, Whitney, Texas 76692 or you may use Paypal at the WBPOA website. Just click on <http://www.whitebluffpoa.com/white-bluff-rate-payers.html> and go to the bottom of the page and click on the donate button.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.