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President's Message – We need more communication

Charles Eley, March 2, 2026

I know many of you and some of you know me. For those of you who don't, I'm a retired engineer and architect. My wife and I have lived in Bodega part-time since 2004. I joined the Bodega Water Company (BWC) Board at the beginning of 2023, when Rick Williams resigned after many years of service as the BWC President. After two years on the Board, I took Alistair Bleifuss' place as President. So far, it has been quite an experience.

I want to thank Laura Parish, Alistair Bleifuss, Aaron Pendergraft and newcomer Nick Charkow for serving on the Board with me. It's a voluntary job with no pay and sometimes little appreciation. Laura brings a wealth of experience as our Secretary/Treasurer. She previously served as the BWC office manager and is very familiar with our operations. Alistair is our institutional memory, having been involved with the BWC for more than 20 years and serving on the board for more than half that time. Aaron is our muscle. When we have a leak, he is out there looking for spinning meters and using his shovel to find the problem.

I am writing because I believe that communication between the Board and the members can be improved. All of you are, of course, invited to participate in our monthly Board meeting on Zoom. We meet the third Monday of each month at 5:15 PM. You can put it in your calendar as a repeating event. You will receive an invitation prior to each meeting with the log-in credentials. Not many of you participate. I understand; we all have busy schedules and the meetings can be a little boring as we discuss the routine business and challenges of running a small water company.

To improve communications, I'm going to start writing a brief President's Message from time to time to be included with your monthly bill. This is the first. I'll try to keep each "message" short and to-the-point so as not to lose your attention. But there is a lot going on with *our* water company that you ought to know about and my hope is that these messages will improve communication.