



May 14, 2024

Dear Resident:

The purpose of this letter is to share updated information and next steps with you regarding the process for public water service extension in portions of Boone County.

In recent months, the Boone County Fiscal Court directed staff to pursue the further extension of public water service in currently unserved areas of the county. Potential areas for expansion were evaluated and at the April 23, 2024, meeting of the Fiscal Court, the elected body authorized the initiative to move forward and approved the specific elements of how the program will work. The specific components are outlined for you in this letter.

The county has prioritized streets for water main extension based upon density, proximity to an existing water main and available resources. Based on these criteria, your neighborhood is eligible to participate. In order to maximize available resources, serve the areas of the county most interested in the program and maintain consistency with past public water expansion projects, the following provisions will guide the program:

1. The county will partner with local water system providers to plan, design, construct, and operate these new water main improvements.
2. The County will be investing significant funding to underwrite the water expansion project. As such, there will be **NO** frontage assessment obligation to be paid by participating property owners.
3. There will be a monthly surcharge required from participating property owners consistent with past expansion projects. This surcharge will be in the form of a \$25 monthly fee that will be assessed in addition to water usage charges. The surcharge will be included on the monthly water bill for a period not to exceed 20 years. Once this surcharge expires, there will be no additional private contribution required. **It is important to note that the \$25 monthly surcharge represents the total investment from the property owner; the county is funding all other expenses of the project to expand the water line.** The property owner will be responsible for any cost associated with providing the required plumbing connections from the water main to the structure and the one-time tap-in fee that is required of every person or entity that taps into a water main.
4. The water expansion program will be leveraged to meet the needs in the most efficient manner possible. This is why the county has prioritized streets for water main extension based upon density, proximity to an existing water main and available resources. In order to authorize construction, 50% of all households on each street/local neighborhood must elect to tap into the new water main.

5. The 50% participation requirement will be determined using a commitment form and deposit. For each property owner in an individual neighborhood who submits a Rural Water Program Commitment Form and a deposit of \$250 by June 21, 2024, that property will count toward the 50% commitment requirement. The \$250 deposit will be credited toward the first ten months of the monthly \$25 surcharge. Once made, the deposit is non-refundable, except that, if the depositor's neighborhood does not meet the 50% participation requirement, the deposit will be refunded in total.
6. As part of the project, the county will request the partnership of residents such that any necessary construction or permanent easements to construct the water main will be granted at no cost to the county.
7. The Rural Water Program Commitment Form and Deposit should be mailed to the Boone County Finance Department, 2950 Washington Street Box 960, Burlington, KY 41005.
8. No property owner is required to participate in the program, even if the individual neighborhood reaches the participation threshold. Properties that connect to a line built as a result of the Rural Water Program Phase 3, after it is initially built, will be required to pay the surcharge for the balance of the twenty (20) year period.
9. The county will be hosting public meetings on May 29, 2024 and May 30, 2024. At these meetings the staff will reshare this information, answer questions, and discuss the next steps in the process. Each meeting is scheduled for **6:30 P.M.** at the Boone County Extension District Enrichment Center, 1824 Patrick Drive, Burlington. Attendance at one of the meetings is not required, residents can simply return the commitment form and deposit to demonstrate their intended participation in the program. In addition, residents can view information about the project and receive future updates, online at publicinput.com/ruralwater3.



If you have any questions about the parameters of the project or next steps, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Franxman". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Robert Franxman,
Boone County Engineer

Boone County Rural Water Program (Phase 3) Common Questions

Q: How was my street identified for participation in program?

A: Streets have been initially identified as eligible based on proximity to current transmission lines and homes per 1,000 Linear Foot in the neighborhood.

Q: What will the property owner's contribution to the water program be?

A: A monthly surcharge of \$25 to help underwrite the program will be assessed to each participating property. In addition, tap-in fees/meter, private property plumbing/connection and monthly rates are the responsibility of the property owner. Connections on private property will require an easement. All Design and Capital Construction Costs above the \$25 monthly surcharge and being funded by the Boone County Fiscal Court.

Q: How long will the surcharge be assessed?

A: Consistent with the Rural Water Program Phase I, the surcharge will be assessed for 20 years.

Q: Do I have to participate in the program?

A: No property owner is required to participate in the program.

Q: Is there a minimum number of properties required to participate?

A: For each neighborhood, 50% of existing properties will be required to confirm participation to move forward with design and construction of the project in that neighborhood.

Q: How much will it cost to tap into the new waterline?

A: The tap in Fee paid to the Boone County Water district is dependent on the size of the water service required for the home, the tap in fee for a 3/4" Meter is \$820.00 and the tap in fee for a 1" Meter is \$1,280.00. The cost for service piping and connection from the meter to the home will be determined by the plumber hired by each individual resident.

Q: How much is the typical cost for water service?

A: The Boone County Water District bills customers based on the amount of water used, there current rates are as follows:

First 3,000 gallons →	\$18.93 minimum charge
Next 2,000 gallons →	\$5.81 per 1,000 gallons
Next 5,000 gallons →	\$5.56 per 1,000 gallons
All over 10,000 gallons →	\$4.81 per 1,000 gallons

The \$25 per month surcharge will be in addition to these rates.

Q: What is required to confirm participation?

A: A property owner who desires to confirm their participation will complete the Rural Water Program Property Owner Commitment Form and submit a \$250 Deposit. 100% of the deposit will be applied toward to monthly surcharge. Deposits are non-refundable unless the project is not built in the neighborhood at which point 100% of the deposit will be refunded to the property owner.

Q: When is my Commitment Form and Deposit Due?

A: The Commitment Form and Deposit must be submitted vial mail to the County Finance Office at Boone County Finance Office, C/O Rural Water Program, Box 960, 2950 Washington Street, Burlington, KY 41005 by Close of Business on June 21, 2024.



**RURAL WATER PROGRAM (PHASE 3)
PROPERTY OWNER COMMITMENT FORM**

I, the property owner located at the address below, do hereby confirm my commitment to participate in the Rural Water Program (Phase 3) and will tap-in and utilize the Boone County Water District service when made available to my property. I understand and agree to the following conditions:

- Tap-in fees/meter, private property plumbing/connection and monthly rates are the responsibility of the property owner.
- A monthly surcharge of \$25 will be assessed to each property for a period of twenty (20) years.
- Participation by 50% or more of property owners in each individual neighborhood will be required in order to move the project to design and construction.
- A \$250 deposit is required to be submitted with this commitment form which will serve as good faith consideration. This shall be non-refundable EXCEPT the deposit will be refunded in full if 50% or more of property owners in the neighborhood do not commit to move forward. In cases where the project is implemented, the \$250 deposit shall be credited to the property owner's account when service is initiated. Deposit should be made payable to Boone County Fiscal Court.
- To be credited toward the 50% participation requirement, this form and deposit must be returned by **CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON JUNE 21, 2024**.
- This Form must be returned to the: Boone County Finance Office
C/O Rural Water Program
Box 960, 2950 Washington Street
Burlington, KY 41005

Property Owner Signature

Date

Name (Printed): _____

Property Address: _____

*Please return this form with \$250 deposit made payable to Boone County Fiscal Court to:
Boone County Finance Office, C/O Rural Water Program, Box 960, 2950 Washington Street, Burlington, KY 41005*