

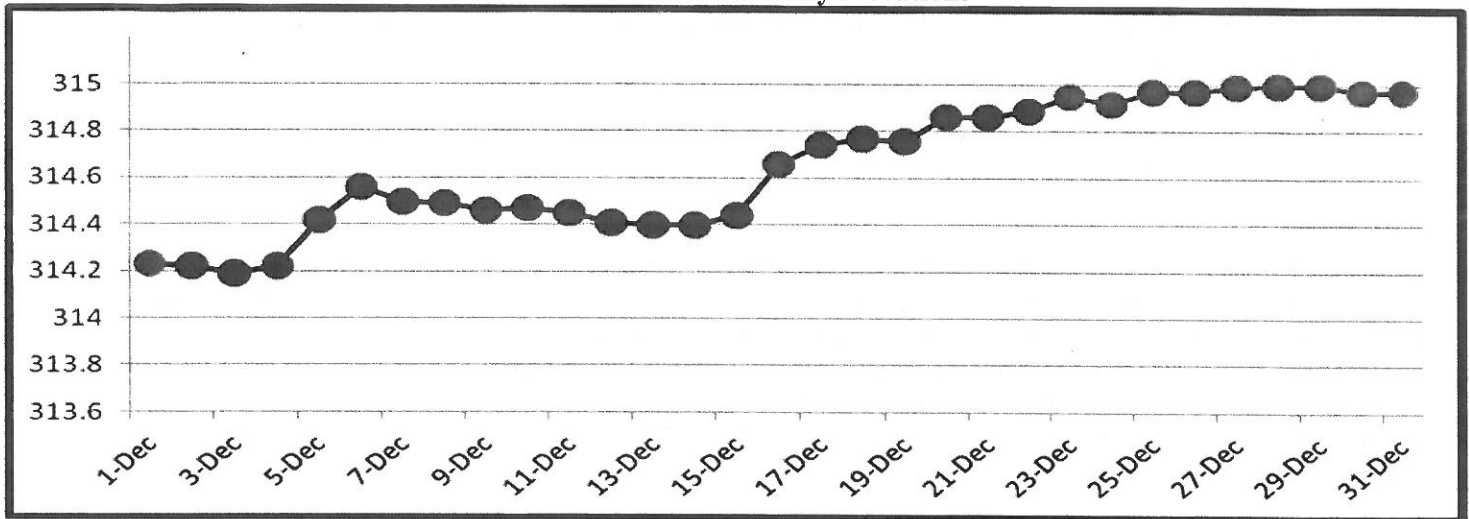
## East Cedar Creek FWSD Quarterly News Letter December 2011

### Cedar Creek Lake Elevation

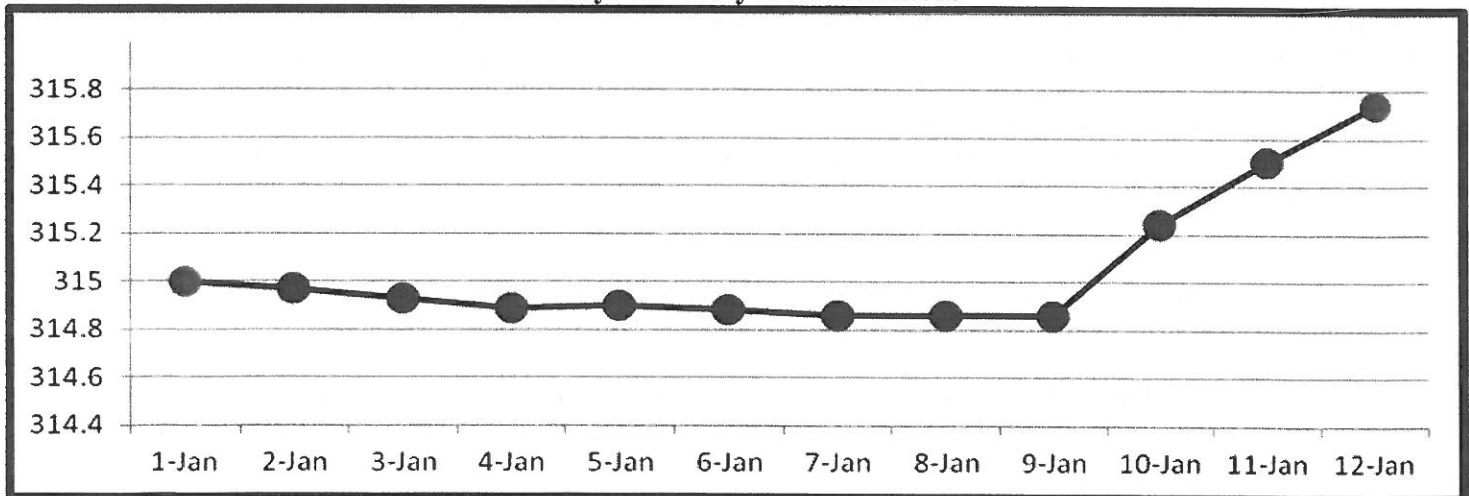
The recent rain events in our area have had little impact on the lake level. However the much needed soaking events have relieved the stress off valuable landscape vegetation. Now that the soil has been saturated with much needed moisture a good portion of the most recent rain fall is being diverted to the lake due to run-off from our watershed. As of the date of this letter our lake has increased in elevation by 1.75 feet. The lowest elevation reading in 2011 was almost 8-feet below the normal pool of 322. We are currently approaching a lake elevation of 316 and with more rain predicted let's hope the trend continues because we will need the capacity for the upcoming summer demands.

YOUR District Board and staff take this drought seriously and monitor conditions on a routine basis. There is no better time to collect data and store these records for future reference decisions of ECCFWSD. Below is one example of our data.

**December 2011 Lake Daily Elevations**



**January 2012 Daily Lake Elevations**



### ECCFWSD Purchase of Mabank Water Meter Customers

The contractor awarded this project is Triple A Sanitation from Tyler, Texas. Construction is underway and the first Subdivision to be transferred to ECCFWSD water is Loon Bay. Timber Trails is scheduled next and then Thunderbird Shores and Pleasure Land. Contractor is expected to have all Subdivisions transferred to ECCFWSD water by the end of February. They will then begin transferring commercial and remaining meter accounts and looping of 6-inch water mains northeast of the ETMC to hwy 198.

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### **Tips to assist in freeze prevention of water line plumbing**

Colder temperatures are here and the potential risk of water line freeze-up is always a nuisance and at times very costly.

Some things you may consider to assist in lessening your risk of freeze up are:

#### **Exterior Plumbing**

- Turn-off outside hose connections and drain where possible.
- If draining is not possible wrap insulation around exposed valves and fittings then add a layer of plastic or similar wrapping to prevent moisture from degrading your insulation.
- For extended outside and under mobile homes heat tapes wrapped around piping with insulation wrapped over the heat tape is an excellent procedure. Be sure the heat tape is plugged into a reliable power source.
- Remove garden hoses, drain and store for next season.

#### **Interior plumbing**

- Open base cabinet doors under kitchen and bathroom sinks to lessen risk of freeze-up of small water supply lines.
- Place a floor fan near opened cabinet doors to assist in circulating warmer air to the area where small water lines are located.
- Some home owners have even used a mechanic's trouble light under sinks to assist in providing additional warmth by the heat off the 100 watt bulb.

#### **Do the math**

If you allow your inside sink faucets to flow water constantly at a very low flow, a confirmed dripping flow, this will reduce the risk of water line freeze-up during severe cold weather conditions. Water in motion has a less risk of freezing but the water must have enough flow to insure constant flow. A fairly rapid drip will waste approximately 15 to 20 gallons per day. If you were to choose two faucets in your home in different location of your home to flow the approximate 20 gallons per day this would be a total of 40 gallons per day added to your water bill or 40 gallons per day times 31 days in a month for a total of 1,240 gallons added to your water bill. ECCFWSD charges \$3.25 per thousand gallons so the additional cost to your water bill would be \$4.03.

If by chance your water lines would freeze during extended days of severe freezing temperatures the inconvenience can be very stressful not to mention the agony of not knowing whether the water lines have rupture and leaks will be present once the water lines unthaw. If there are leaks to repair one would hope you are present to shut off your water to the service at your customer shut off valve or the water will continue to run, possibly creating more cost and problems. If the thawed water line is in the house flooding may occur and your insurance company may need to be involved and a plumber may need to be contracted. If you are very handy and repairs can be made it is still a hassle and trips to the hardware store may be your future. If a plumber is called it is not uncommon to see a fee of \$75.00 to \$100.00 service call even if the work is minor.

We hope this would never occur but thought you may be interested in cost comparisons of how to assist in the prevention of potential costly repairs by adding \$4.03 to your water bill during extreme cold temperatures.

**Note: The above cold temperature tips are solely for suggestion on ways to lessen risks of frozen water line plumbing and are not to be construed as a guarantee by ECCFWSD that water lines will not freeze even if the above tips are applied.**