**LINCOLN COUNTY RURAL WATER DISTRICT NO. 2**

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**DEFINITIONS**

**DISTRICT** – All area lying within the boundaries of Lincoln County, Oklahoma, Rural Water District No. 2. Controlled by the Board of Directors including water standpipes, pumping stations, all pipes, valves, meters, buildings used in the distribution of water.

**BENEFIT UNIT** – A benefit agreement issued from the District to the benefit member who has paid the fee for the water service that has deemed feasible by the engineer and approved by the Board of Directors.

**BENEFIT MEMBER** – A landowner who has paid the benefit unit fee and has been furnished a benefit unit certificate from the Board of Directors.

**BENEFIT UNITS**

1. Water Service is available to every landowner, when economically feasible, in the District regardless of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

2. Benefit member is entitled service only to one house or one business, together with the necessary and usual out building, per benefit unit/meter.

3. The District may sell water to parties outside of the district boundary lines, when feasible, but the district will not provide water lines or meters past district boundary line.

4. A benefit unit may be transfer if all bills are paid in full.

5. The amount charged for a benefit unit will be the sole responsibility of the District Board of Directors based upon the initial $500 consideration, plus the actual cost of the meter, loop and reasonable installation charges ($1,500.00 for ¾ inch meter and $1,600.00 for a 1 inch meter).

6. The District will set meters just inside of the property line unless circumstances warrant otherwise. The benefit member will be responsible for the service line from the meter to their residence or business.

7. Meter shut off valves in side of the meter box are the property of the District and are not constructed to be used as shut off valves. Continuous use of the valves will result in damage to the valve and will make it of no use to the District or of the benefit member. Each benefit member must have his/her own cut off valve and should use the meter shut off valve in cases of emergency use only.

8. The District makes no representations nor warranties concerning the adequacy of any fire hydrant, or volume of water delivered at a fire hydrant. All patrons are advised to inform their insurance agent, who is relying upon the system for fire protection purposes, to determine whether the hydrant meets insurance required standards and specifications.

9. Line extension (including service meter) – The prospective benefit member is responsible for any and all cost including but not limited to engineering, materials, labor and related fees for any inspection by district operator. After one (1) year, the rural water district assumes ownership and maintenance of said water line. In addition, the prospective benefit member is responsible for any and all legal fees and costs, if any, associated with said line extension. After one (1) year, the Rural Water District assumes, ownership and maintenance of said waterline. The prospective benefit member agrees within a reasonable time and, in any event, no longer than thirty (30) days upon written request of the District to execute such easements and rights of way as is necessary to effectuate ownership of said water line in the name of the District and legal right of access of the District thereto.

10. Requested meter tests: Meter tests requested by a participating benefit member will be performed without cost to the participating benefit member if the meter is found to be in excess of two percent (2%) fast or slow. Otherwise, participating benefit member for whom the request test was made will be charged for the cost of making the test.

11. Participating benefit member’s Responsibility: The participating benefit member shall be responsible for any damage to service equipment owner installed by the District for his or her service, deriving from any cause other than normal wear and tear.

**BILLING**

1. The District will invoice benefit member for water service as follows:

 (a) Each benefit member shall be responsible for reading his/her water meter monthly and paying an amount determined by the LCRWD#2 coupon book rate scale provided yearly by the LCRWD#2 Board. Payment of the water bill will be due within ten (10) days after the first of each month.

 (b) If any unpaid bill, water or any monies owed to District, remains unpaid for thirty (30) days after the past due date, water service will be shut off. Notice will be given for payment due prior to shut-off. If the past due bill payment is received within ninety (90) days of the original due date a one hundred fifty dollars ($150.00) charge for re-connection of service will be assessed. After ninety (90) days of non-payment the water meter will be pulled and replacement of a water meter will require a payment of one thousand, five hundred dollars ($1,500.00) before installation. Also, all arrears shall be paid prior to restarting water service. Failure to pay the monthly water meter or water access charge within ninety (90) days after the due date shall constitute an automatic forfeiture of the Benefit Unit on behalf of which such failure occurs.

 (c) Water meters will be read twice a year by the LCRWD#2. Notice will be given for any unpaid water usage.

2. The payment of the water bill is the responsibility of the registered owner of the benefit unit, whether the premises are occupied by the registered owner or by his/her tenant or other person. The District shall not be responsible in any way to collect the unpaid bill of any tenant or other person occupying the premises other than the registered owner of the benefit unit. If a tenant moves away with an unpaid bill, the bill must be paid prior to restoration of service to that location.

3. Benefit unit owner is responsible to pay for all water used through meter regardless of cause, (i.e. break in Benefit unit owner’s line past meter, accidents, vandalism, and etc.)

4. To retain water service a monthly charge is required to maintain service as determined by the Board.

5. If a water meter quits working, an estimate of the bill is obtained by taking an average of the past three (3) months water usage. Benefit members shall notify the District immediately of any non-working water meter. Defective water meters will be replaced at no cost, provided the meter has not been damaged by member abuse.

6. Water rate charges will be set by the District Board of Directors.

7. A benefit member agrees to pay all costs of collection including, court costs and attorney fees.

**HEALTH REGULATIONS**

1. In accordance with the Oklahoma State Department of Health regulations, water user’s service lines shall be a minimum of fifteen (15) feet from a septic tank and lateral field if the ground slopes away from the water line. A minimum distance of fifty (50) feet must be maintained if the ground slopes toward the water line.

2. No physical connection can be made between any private water system and the water supplied by the District.

3. Representatives of the District shall have the right at all reasonable hours to enter upon the consumer’s premises for the purpose of inspection and enforcement of the provision.

**VIOLATIONS**

1. Violation of any of the above provisions shall be ground for discontinuation of service.

2. No waiver or delay in the enforcement by the District of any requirement under the By Laws, Rules and Regulations of the District or any related agreement or documentation shall operate as a future waiver of any such requirements.