

## **Public works Report – April 2026**

During the month of April, the Town of Lake City produced 13,158,000 gallons of safe drinking water. The Wastewater Treatment Plant processed 1,159,627 gallons of wastewater. For comparison, in April of last year, the Town produced 14,190,200 gallons of water and processed 1,489,043 gallons of wastewater.

### **Water**

Public Works fixed two leaks in the month of April: one at the intersection of Cleborn and Gunnison Avenue, and another near Ocean Wave and Highway 149. We also installed the fire suppression system for the armory. Due to unexpected delays, the trench remained open longer than anticipated and is now scheduled to be filled on May 4th.

Public Works also replaced a fire hydrant at the intersection of 7th and Water Street. More information on the events of the last week of April can be found below. Public Works would like to express its sincere gratitude to the many volunteers who assisted with troubleshooting the issue at Bluff Well and flushing the system afterward. We could not have lifted the boil order as quickly without the valuable assistance of former Public Works Director Greg Levin, Fire Chief Justin Tomson, and all of the volunteer firefighters who supported Public Works during this event.

### **Wastewater**

No events to report.

### **Streets and Alleys**

Public works has done minor road repair in the month of April. Mag Chloride is scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup> and grading of all dirt roads is scheduled to begin in the first week of May.

### **Other**

Public works assisted Parks and Rec with the preparation for the new town park install. Finished clean up and tree removal on Henson Street. Sprinklers were turned on at parks.

Thank you,

Ethan Wuest

Interim Public Works Director

On April 25, 2026, Willy arrived at the Bluff well house (Well #1) to perform daily checks. Upon arrival, he discovered that the poly-orthophosphate injector had cracked and was spraying large volumes of water onto the electrical equipment inside the well house.

At first, there appeared to be only minor issues with the monitoring system, which tracks tank levels. We manually monitored tank levels to ensure we had not lost system pressure. We shut down power to the well, placed heaters and fans inside the well house to dry the equipment, and started the Ballfield well within the required operating parameters of 200 gal/min.

Later on the 25<sup>th</sup>, when turning the Bluff well back on, a power surge occurred that “fried” the VFD.

On April 26, 2026, we noticed that 200 gal/min was unable to keep up with demand. Although tank levels remained adequate, calculations showed we had approximately 48 hours before the tanks would be completely drained. We then called an electrician in hopes the issue could be resolved before the tanks ran dry. In preparation for the possibility that the Ballfield well’s pumping rate would need to be increased above its allowed limit of 200 gal/min. We attempted to reach the acute hot line at 9am, then issued a boil order and were officially in contact with CDPHE at 11:46am.

At around 7:30 p.m. on the 26<sup>th</sup>, the electrician determined the issue was beyond his capabilities. We then increased the pumping rate of the Ballfield well to 300 gal/min and raised the chlorine dosage to 2.18 mg/L. The increase of the pumping rate made it possible that contamination was getting into our system. Throughout this period, chlorine was monitored frequently to ensure a constant chlorine residual of 2.0 mg/L or higher was maintained.

On the morning of April 27, 2026, we located a replacement VFD and an installer.

On April 28, 2026, the installer arrived around 12:00 p.m. to install the new equipment. By 4:00 p.m., the Bluff well (Well #1) was back in operation, and the pumping rate of the Ballfield well was reduced to just under the required 200 gal/min. Immediately afterward, with the assistance of the fire department, the town systematically flushed the distribution system using the existing fire hydrants. Flushing began at the entry points and progressed from the south end of town to the north. All dead-end lines were flushed as their branches were reached. All discharge water was soaked into the ground and diverted well away from any surface water in order to comply with CDPHE.

On April 29<sup>th</sup> samples were taken from each tank, 4 distribution sites after flushing, and one from ballfield well while running under 200gal/min. Adequate flushing was observed by the decrease in free chlorine residual of each sample site. Samples were delivered to City of Gunnison Laboratory.

On April 30<sup>th</sup> sample results came back safe. At 4pm the boil order was lifted.