

St. Marys Area Water Authority

Submitted by Dwight Hoare, P.E., Operations Manager

The St. Marys Area Water Authority is located in Elk County and serves the City of St. Marys and the majority of Fox Township. The water system has a long history, starting in 1889, when two existing water companies were combined and incorporated into the St. Marys Water Company. The old water company grew and expanded to serve the St. Marys area over the next 40 years, when in 1928, it was sold to the American Water Works Service Company (now called American Water).



When AWW purchased the Water Company in 1928, it consisted of fifty-two miles of water mains, four sources of supply (45% surface and 55% well water), a booster pump station to serve the high points with the service area and a two-million gallon reservoir that provided service to over 3,300 customers that were all metered.

Over the next forty years the St. Marys area grew and expanded both in population and manufacturing. St. Marys has a long history of industrial manufacturing (particularly carbon and graphite products) and, this increased manufacturing presence began to take its toll on the water supplies that were available. In the 1950's and 60's it was common for our system to be on water restrictions in the dry periods of the year, and to have many dirty water complaints from the customers when hard rains did occur. Over this forty year period, American Water basically operated the existing system and did not look to expand or

keep up with the growing needs of our community.

In 1966 a group of concerned citizens determined that it was time to address the growing water problem in St. Marys. In 1967 the St. Marys Area Joint Water Authority was formed under the Municipal Authorities Act of 1945 pursuant to resolutions of the council of the Borough of St. Marys and the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Benzinger. After three years of planning and negotiations with American Water, the system was bought back for \$2.1 million dollars in 1969. The purchase of the water company and the immediate expansion projects were financed with Water Revenue Bonds and grants through the State of Pennsylvania.

A surface water source was created by the purchase of 1,000 acres in the Laurel Run Valley and construction of an 800 million gallon impoundment which was started in June 1970, along with a conventional filtration plant

and pumping facility capable of handling five million gallons per day. The plant was completed and placed into operation in October, 1971.

In 1972, the Authority purchased the Kersey Water Company for \$74,500 and paid for the system with surplus funds over a five-year period. The Kersey system had been purchasing water from the St. Marys Water Company before the Authority took over the St. Marys system because the water wells that supplied their system had failed.

Over the next forty years the Authority expanded its service area by constructing many miles of water line along with pumping stations and finished water storage tanks. Today, the Authority provides service to 7,350 connections spread over a large geographical area.

Our system does have a drive for innovation. In 1918 the St. Marys Water Company built the first all concrete and steel reservoir tank in the United States. Roughly 100 years later, our Authority came

up with the idea that lead to the development of a new, web-based, real-time, XML interface software platform that allows utilities the opportunity to directly interface with PA One Call for processing of their one call tickets. Our system is always striving to improve the service that we provide to our customers.

Continued on next page



Pictures of the pretreatment facility.



TAPPING SERVICES

Lateral Taps
3" through 20"

Line Stops
4" through 12"

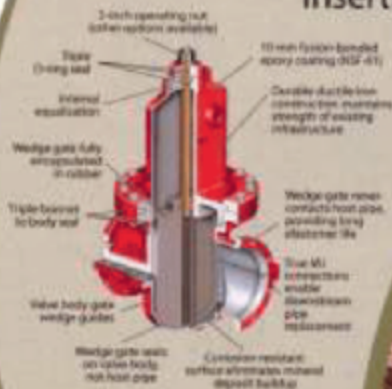
Valve Insertions
4" through 12"

Service Taps
3/4" through 2"



Trumbull now installs...

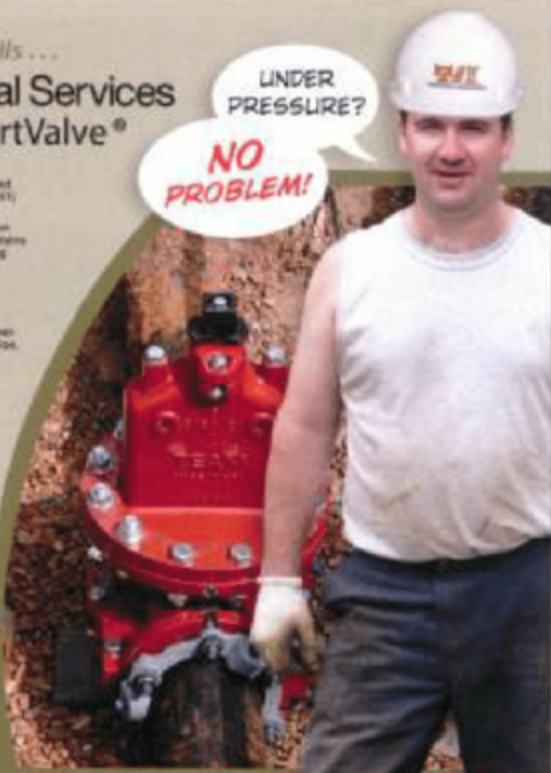
TEAM Industrial Services InsertValve®



Fully bonded and insured!
Over 20 years tapping experience!

UNDER PRESSURE?

NO PROBLEM!



Contact PAT HIGGINS: 800.677.1799 Cell: 330.540.3409

Bentleyville: 724.239.2063 Meadville: 814.337.6161 trumbullmunicipal.com

WATER | FEATURED SYSTEM Continued from previous page

We do supply the famous Straub Brewery. Founded in 1842, this brewery is the second oldest in the United States. We are asked often by people not familiar with our area if Laurel Run is the source of the "mountain spring water" used to make the beer (an old marketing slogan of the brewery) and the answer is, "yes". The brewery purchases about 400,000 gallons of water per month and approaches one million gallons during peak beer making season in the hot summer months or on holidays like Christmas.



Images starting top right, going clockwise: 1) Rosely Road Tank, holding as much as 1.3 million gallons. 2) Filter and Pump control panel in their filter plant. 3) Straub Brewery Plant. G. Cowles

**FIND IT. SERVICE IT. DOCUMENT IT.
BOOST PRODUCTIVITY.**



"Bring Your Own Device" to asset management with the Trimble Unity - AFC Mapper, a free mobile app which enables users to store data and location information of fire hydrants, gate valves and other water network assets. AFC Mapper automates the management of assets and eliminates redundant manual data entry.

AFC Mapper facilitates the storage of product specifications, manufacturing attributes, maintenance records, photos and GIS locations, which are all accessible from a single database. Simply stated, AFC Mapper helps users to manage Productivity - The Right Way. Download the free app for Android or iOS-based devices today at www.trimblewater.com/afc-mapper.html.

www.american-usa.com

PO Box 2727, Birmingham, AL 35207

Phone: 1-800-326-8051 • Fax: 1-800-610-3569

EOE/Minority/Female/Veteran/Disability



AMERICAN
FLOW CONTROL

DUCTILE IRON PIPE

FLOW CONTROL

INTERNATIONAL

SPIRALWELD PIPE

STEEL PIPE