

The main issue the City of Ritzville is currently facing is being able to obtain new water rights. With new development taking place and the future plans for growth, it will not be long before we exceed the current water right. The city has the same problems as everywhere else in the region with a declining aquifer, and an aging infrastructure that has met its lifespan. Obtaining funding is always a challenge as each funding source has specific requirements and guidelines on how the funding can be allocated and spent.



MAJOR ISSUES

- Demand Exceeding Water Rights
- Old and Leaking Water Distribution Lines
- Decreasing Water Table
- Insufficient Funding for Existing and New Infrastructure

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

- Water rights
- Funding for improving existing infrastructure
- Backup power supply for each well

The drilling of a third well is almost complete and it is expected to produce 2,000 GPM. As more homes and businesses are built, the water system capacity will have to be updated.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Juggling Offline Wells and Improvements

Anytime one of the wells goes down, there is not enough water capacity to meet resident's and businesses' needs over a long period of time. Well #9 produces 2,000 gpm and is the city's main well. When it goes down, the backup Rodeo Well will produce 300 gpm, just enough to flush toilets. The primary backup Koch Well is currently offline due to a decreased water table and will be back online in the spring of 2023 after rebuilding the bowls, replacing the casing, and lowering the bowls 40 feet.

The city is currently completing a Well #8 rehabilitation project where a new well was drilled nearby. The well is nearing completion and will be operational by the 2023 producing around 2,000 gpm.

Until all wells are 100% functional, it will be a juggling act to meet the needed water capacity for the city, especially when Well #9 goes down. Well #9 has faced many challenges as it took four years to have the well fully functional and has been running at its full capacity, with minor disruptions in service, for the last three years.

WATER SOURCES

1 MAIN WELL, 1 BACKUP

Main Output: 2,000 GPM
Backup Output: 750 GPM

1 EMERGENCY WELL

Output: 250-350 GPM

GRAVITY WATER SYSTEM

1,000,000-gallon pipe stand
120' tall

FAST FACTS

Service Population: 1,670 residents

Median Income: \$46,500

Water Rates:
\$53.30/month < 599 cft

Additional Rates:
\$1.50/100cft > 500cft

Growth Rate: 14.7% per year

Main Industries: Agriculture, Government, Medical, and Education

“ The City’s infrastructure is aging and working with contractors to provide functional systems has been a challenge. There are multiple water projects that will be completed in the next few years with the assistance of a USDA Rural Development grant and loan, but we need to find a way to secure future water rights. ”

CONTACTS

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