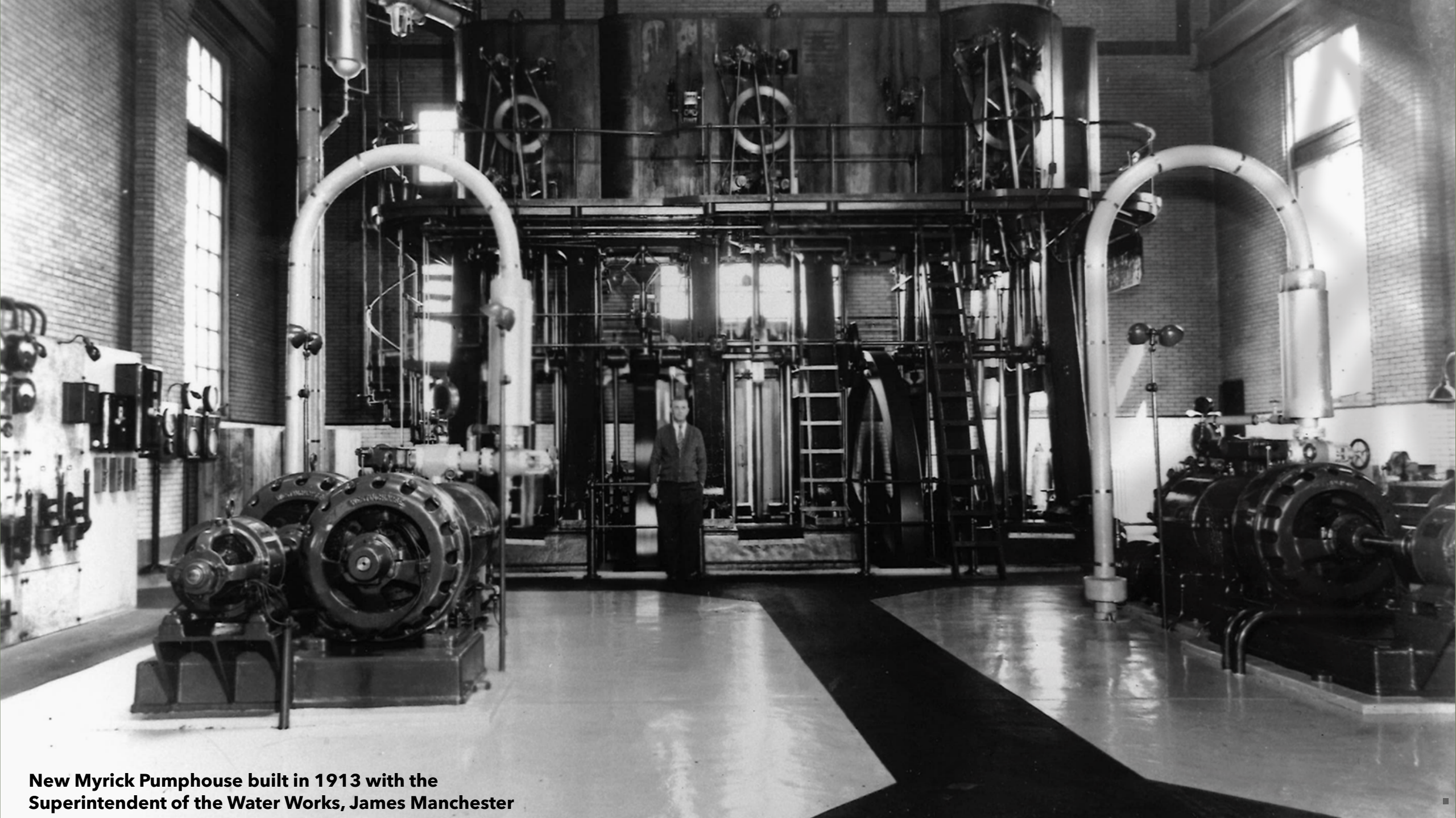


# City of La Crosse Water Utility

Established 1877







**New Myrick Pumphouse built in 1913 with the  
Superintendent of the Water Works, James Manchester**

# Historical Events

## 1877

- City Council agreed to supply the City with water

## 1880

- The King Street Pumphouse was brought online at a construction and operation cost of \$81,257
  - It brought in 2.5 million gallons of water daily from the Mississippi River to supply 273 taps

## 1913

- The Myrick Pumphouse was brought online at a construction and operation cost of \$53,128
- The King Street Pumphouse was retired
- The Grandad Reservoir (currently active and holds 5 million gallons of water) and the Myrick Reservoir (now demolished and could hold 1 million gallons of water) were brought online at a total cost of \$90,952
  - All were fed from the La Crosse Marsh Well Field (Marsh Trail) that consisted of six (6) pumps with four (4) siphons each that were all powered by two (2) coal boilers

## 1937

- Well 10H (now retired) was installed in Hood Park and became the first remote well in the City

## 1939

- La Crosse Water Works became a Utility and separated water revenue funds from the City's tax funds

## 1947 - 1955

- Ten (10) more high service wells were installed
- All wells were now being treated with chlorine

## 1960

- Myrick Pumphouse converted to electric driven pumps capable of producing 15,600 gallons per minute and averaged eight (8) million gallons per day

## 1960 - 1970

- Wells 1 through 9 (pre-1936 wells located in or along the marsh) were retired to improve water quality

## 1970

- A second high service reservoir is recommended for fire protections, pressure, and redundancy

# Historical Events Continued

## **1986**

- Well 26 was brought online
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the Wellhead Protection Program in the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974

## **1988**

- The City of La Crosse Residents voted in the usage of fluoride in the drinking water supply

## **1990's**

- A cathodic system was installed on County Road B to combat corrosive soils and to protect the water main

## **1998**

- The DNR recommends the Myrick Reservoir no longer be used due to safety concerns

## **2003**

- The booster station was installed to feed Waterford Valley

## **2008**

- The 24-inch water main was installed on Bliss Road as a redundant feed to the Grandad Reservoir

## **2009 - 2010**

- The Mormon Coulee Reservoir (SE Reservoir) was installed with a holding capacity of 150 thousand gallons
  - For comparison: one (1) foot of depth in the Grandad Reservoir is 250 thousand gallons

## **2012**

- The Cross Connection Control (CCC) and Meter Exchange Program was established

## **2018**

- The Myrick Reservoir (retired in 1998) is demolished, and a Utility garage is built in its location

## **2019**

- La Crosse was declared optimized with the Lead and Copper Policies of the EPA
- An unknown contaminate was detected at the French Island Wells 23, 24 and 26
  - The contaminate was later determined to be PFAS
- Wells 23 and 24 were no longer used as active wells and kept inactive due to high PFAS Levels



# Recent and Current Events

New Large Utility Garage as of 2025



## 2021

- Well 26 produced water for the last time and made inactive out of caution due to PFAS even though it was under the MCL at the time

## 2023

- The State Street 20-inch water main broke under the BSNF railroad tracks
- The Grandad Reservoir power pole line was moved from overhead to underground

## 2024

- Wells 23 and 24 were cut and capped and no longer attached to the water supply
- A deep engineering study was launched into Grandad's structural health
- Well 22 was offline for nine months due to a mechanical failure
- A preventative maintenance program was established for the wells and reservoirs
- Myrick Pumphouse experienced an indoor generator fire

## 2025

- Wells 19, 20, 21, and 25 had their motor and pump brought up to date
- The Wellhead Protection Plan and Ordinance was created and adopted for the City
- The Grandad Reservoir was determined to be leaking water into its valve pit
- Well 24's wellhouse was demolished
- Well 26 was abandoned and no longer attached to the water supply
- The wellhouse for Well 26 was transferred to the Wastewater Utility for onsite storage
- Myrick began more inhouse water testing due to changing Federal regulations
- Myrick Pumphouse begins planning its 3<sup>rd</sup> rehabilitation since it was constructed in 1913



**Inside Grandad Reservoir in 2024**



# La Crosse Water Utility

## - Supply -

- The La Crosse Water Utility provides consistent safe drinking water at some of the lowest rates in the State with an average cost of \$52.05 per quarter or \$0.004 per gallon.
- Each night we fill the Grandad Reservoir with roughly five million gallons of water. The City consumes this water the following day and the cycle begins again providing fresh water every single day.
- If our wells ran for 24-hours, we would be able to produce 35 million gallons of water. The daily average consumption is 9 million gallons.
- Every 30 hours the Southeast Reservoir is refreshed with more water to maintain pressures in the Waterford Valley area. The Southeast Reservoir is fed daily by the main system and the Grandad Reservoir.
- In 2025, the Water Department performed over 700 required water testing samples and many more non-required investigative testing to ensure water quality.
- Ten high-capacity wells are inspected daily to ensure functionality and over 650 preventive maintenance items are individually tracked for different replacement and cleaning cycles.

**Well 16 Pump Being Pulled in 2025**





# La Crosse Water Utility

## - Distribution -

- The Water Utility maintains over 16,800 water services, 3,000 valves, 2,000 hydrants, and 220 miles of water main.
- We are on-call 24/7/365 no matter the weather conditions
- Each of the 2,000 fire hydrants are flushed a minimum of once per year to clear out any scaling and buildup in the water mains.
- Each fire hydrant is checked weekly during the winter to ensure none have frozen and are ready to use in the event of an emergency.
- One third of the City's water valves (1,000) are turned and exercised each year to ensure they will function in the event of an emergency.
- In 2025, we repaired and/or replaced over 200 water services.
- In 2025, we responded to 16 water main breaks, of which, eight were in the winter months.

Hydrant Flushing 2025



Field Repair of a Valve





**Large Meter Testing**



**Seasonal Meter Storage**



# La Crosse Water Utility

## - Meter Shop -

- The La Crosse Water Utility is responsible for testing, cleaning, and repairing each of the 15,500 water meters in the city and 50 large meters from the Village of Holmen.
- We follow the Public Service Commission's (PSC) requirements of exchanging/replacing meters on the following schedule:
  - 1" & smaller meters - Every 20 years
  - 1.5" - 2" meters - Every 4 years
  - 3" - 4" meters - Every 2 years
  - 6" meters - Yearly
- The La Crosse Water Utility ensures the accuracy of all 15,500 water meters in commercial and residential properties by testing them after they've been exchanged/replaced.
  - Small meters must test in the accuracy range of 98.5% to 101.5%
  - Large meter's accuracy range must test between 97% to 103.5%
  - If any meter tests lower or higher than the range indicated, it is scrapped, as required by the PSC
- In 2025
  - We tested 495 large meters and 1,172 small meters.
  - We replaced or scrapped 1,248 meters, all of which are recorded and documented by year
  - We responded to 3,140 service calls that ranged from meter readings, meter exchanges, checks regarding high water consumption or leaks, locating curb stops, etc.



# Upcoming Events

- The new large utility garage will be completed
- Plans to rehabilitate Myrick Pumphouse will begin
- Plans for drilling Well 27 will begin
- Security fencing will start to be installed around each well house
- The Water Meter Station construction will begin
- The Grandad Reservoir will be rehabilitated for the first time since it's 1913 installation
- Two miles of 24-inch watermain will be installed on Highway 16
- The frequency of fire hydrant flushing will increase





Grandad Reservoir under Construction in 1913



# La Crosse Water Utility

Thank you, La Crosse, for all the  
trust and support in our 149 years  
of supplying clean and safe  
drinking water!