

History Timeline

of

Lake Catherine Waterworks and Sewer Facilities/Riviera

Before 1996: Developer Assets go into Receivership

- Diamondhead and Riviera Utilities were owned by a developer, and all assets had been placed in receivership. At this time, the Utility consisted of several water wells and treated water at its facility. The water quality was inadequate and hard to treat mainly due to high mineral and iron content. The supply was also limited. Residents relied on septic systems for wastewater.

1996: Peterson Family purchases Utility

- The developer assets of Diamondhead were purchased by the Peterson Family. Diamondhead Resort Community (DRC), Inc., was owned by 3 members of the Family, and Riviera Utilities of Arkansas, Inc. was owned by 4 members of the Family. (Since the Utility was owned by a private corporation, it was regulated by the Arkansas Public Service Commission)

2000: (early 2000's) New Sewer System and Water Supply

- The Arkansas Department of Health and Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality mandated that the Utility begin working on designing and installing a sewer system for the community, as the small lots would no longer meet the percolation requirements of a septic system. The Developer (DRC), Inc. agreed to the cost of the new system, to be paid back by the Utility. A new STEP system was designed by the Utility's engineers and was approved by the Arkansas State Health Department.
- Around this time, the City of Hot Springs offered Riviera the opportunity to connect to the City's water distribution system and become a wholesale water customer. This provided an unlimited supply of pretreated drinking water to the community.

2008: DRC decides to divest Riviera

- The shareholders (Peterson Family) of DRC decided to divest and try to sell the facility to a Private or Public company. The company was placed on the market.

2009: Diamondhead Community Steps In – LCWW Formed

- Members of the Diamondhead Community stepped in to prevent the sale to a Private Company in order to exercise some control over the Utility. The Lake Catherine Waterworks and Sewer Facilities Board of Garland County was formed by the Garland County Quorum Court. The Original five members (James Hannon, Bill Milligan, Don Oseroff, and two others) of the Board were appointed and sworn in by the Garland County Judge. (A Public Facilities Board, as a public entity, qualifies for tax free bond financing) After its formation, the Board began work immediately on financing the purchase of the Utility.

2012: Purchase Complete

- In May of 2012, the purchase was completed.
- As a public entity, the Utility was no longer regulated by the Arkansas Public Service Commission.
- The Arkansas Health Department, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, and Arkansas Department of Natural Resources are regulatory agencies

(More to Come)