



SPOTLIGHT:

The Village of Melrose

In each issue of the WRWA Journal we highlight one of our system member communities. In this issue we're pleased to spotlight the Village of Melrose

MELROSE HISTORY-

The Village of Melrose, Wisconsin is nestled in the Heart of Black River Country. Located just 40 miles Northeast of La Crosse, Wisconsin, Melrose boasts a population of 503 residents.

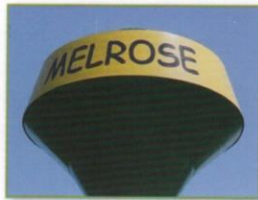
Despite its small size, the Village offers its citizens a wealth of recreational activities, business opportunities, and governmental services.

It was first started when Robert Douglas staked a 1500 acre claim along the Black River in 1839. At the time there was only wilderness. Douglas, a native of Scotland, is credited with being the first non-native settler of the area and founding father of what later would become the town of Melrose, the town of North Bend and eventually the Village of Melrose. It's believed Melrose — which means "the honey of roses" — was named after Melrose Abbey in Scotland.

Douglas' family soon would follow him to the area — the first being his brother Thomas and the two broke soil to begin the first farm in Jackson County. They settled east of the present-day village in an area that became known as Douglas Prairie and also Douglas Settlement.

The area continued to grow and attract new settlers through farming and the logging industry. The community's first post office was established in June of 1855 and in November 1855 what is now the town of Melrose was created by action of the Jackson County Board.

In June of 1913 there were 28 residents who petitioned to have the Village of Melrose incorporated. Clark County Judge James



O'Neill signed an order for the Village of Melrose to incorporate from the Town of Melrose on July 5, 1913, and the state recognizes that as the Village's official incorporation date. On September 2, 1913 they held a special election of officers and the first Village President was elected.

MELROSE RECREATION-

The Village maintains two parks. The smaller of the two parks contains playground equipment for the smaller children and the larger park has three ball diamonds and a pool. The larger of the diamonds has a large covered grandstand that was built years ago. In the 70's lights were added and the diamond was used for many fast and slow pitch tournaments and games. Now, two of the diamonds are used mainly for youngster's softball and baseball.

In the late 1980's the Village received approximately a \$300,000 memorial for a pool. Through much hard work by many local people, more money was raised and the pool,

mechanical building and bath house were built. The pool holds 145,000 gallons of water and is 10 foot deep on one end and 2 feet 6 inches deep on the other. A wading pool was also built and the pool is used by many children during the summer months. Also, the Melrose-Mindoro School District uses it for swimming lessons.



MELROSE WATER DEPARTMENT-

The first well was drilled in 1938 and was the sole water source for 13 years. An iron removal system was installed in 1939 as the water was high in iron and manganese. Well #2 was completed

Continued on pg 22

Continued from pg 21



SPOTLIGHT:

The Village of Melrose

in 1951. This well also had high iron levels of but lower levels of manganese. Due to the elevated iron levels this well was abandoned in 1984.

Well #3 was drilled in 1981 in an attempt to find water that was lower in iron & manganese and not requiring treatment. The well was completed in the unconsolidated formation in the Black River valley and included a 10 foot screen at a depth of 84 feet below the surface. No treatment was needed at first, but after 6-years the iron and manganese levels rose and nitrates became a problem.

The water storage tank was built in 1938 with a capacity of 50,000 gallons. In 1996 the Village replaced dead end mains and all the 2 inch lines. They also looped the dead end areas and added six new fire hydrants for better fire protection.

In 2006, after receiving customer complaints of dirty water from the high iron and manganese for years, the Village Board and engineers started looking into constructing a new water system for more and better water. The project was started in 2008 with a new 325' deep well being drilled, and in 2009 a second 300' deep well was drilled. A new building containing the iron and manganese removal plant was built, and also a new 135,000 gallon water tower was constructed at the urging of the DNR.

The new system went on-line in December of 2009. Well #4 pumps approximately 250 GPM and Well #5 pumps 210 GPM. Both wells pump into wet wells in the new building until the tower is in need of water. Two booster pumps then alternate pumping through the new iron and manganese treatment system to the tower. The Water Department adds chlorine both before and after the filter, and caustic soda & potassium permanganate are also added. The levels of iron and manganese before treatment are iron at 3.45 mg/l and manganese at .22 mg/l. After treatment the levels are iron at .05 mg/l and manganese at .03 - .05 mg/l.

The cost of the project was approximately \$3.1 million with \$650,000 in grants received, so final cost to utility customers was approximately \$2.65 million. The Village used Rural Development loans for the project.



MELROSE WASTEWATER PLANT-

The Village originally had a trickling filter system and, in 1982 started work on a new system. The new system was put on-line in 1983 and has one lift station that pumps to a pond system located one mile out of town. Two ponds are maintained with a design flow for 54,000 gallons per day, the average flow is around 25,000 GPD. The Village plant chlorinates and de-chlorinates during the months of May – September, and is in the process of working on chemical addition to reduce phosphorous due to the new rules. The Village has approximate 3 ½ miles of both water and sewer mains and is operated by one full-time employee that is certified in water & wastewater, and one part-time employee that is working on obtaining his licenses.



The Village of Melrose is a proud member of WRWA and leans on them for help whenever questions arise.

For more information on Melrose you can go to the website: www.melrosewi.com