A FAQ-Guide Related to Residential Water Meters, Installation and Certification

1. Does the IM Water Service Program (IM WSP) require or prescribe a particular water meter, manner of installation, person or company, or certification official?

- NO. The IM WSP, nor the Indian Mountain Metropolitan District, DOES NOT require, prescribe, promote or otherwise recommends any particular water meter, person or company or certification official.

2. Where can I find help in selecting a water meter for my IM residence?

- The HASP website identifies two water meter manufacturers: Sensus and Daniel L Jerman Co. The website also identifies two local meter suppliers: Dana Kepner Company and Mountain States Pipe and Supply. ([http://haspwater.com/resources.html](http://haspwater.com/resources.html))
- Pete Ambrose, full-time IM resident and licensed home building contractor, has offered to provide advice. He has installed more than 20 water meters to date. 719-839-0938 or Ambrosehomebuilders@yahoo.com. You can go to his webpage and click on a form to get started in the process if you would like his help.
- Any reputable plumbing company should be able to answer your questions and give advice. Just keep in mind the meter must be tested in place after installation and by installing a few valves in the piping during installation makes testing easier.
- Do a google search----there are many different types of water meters with different advantages and costs.
- Samantha Bertin, IM WSP Program Administrator, could give you the names of some other IM WSP participants who might share their knowledge and experience in selecting, installing and certifying their water meter.

3. What types of meters are available?

- The two main types of meters are mechanical and electronic. Either type can meet the requirements of HASP by being accurate to +/- 5% or better.
- Although it is not a HASP requirement, it is recommended that any meter you select should have an AWWA Standard C-7xx certification for accuracy and an NSF/ANSI-61 certification for use in cold
potable water service. These certifications establish both a level of quality and suitability for drinking water use.

- Mechanical meters are lower cost and widely used. A concern for IM is that they have moving parts and small passages and chambers inside that may accumulate mineral deposits, grit, etc. over time. This may also make them difficult to fully drain if they are unheated in cold weather.

- Electronic meters replacing mechanical meters in many utilities but cost 1-1/2 to 2 times as much as mechanical meters. Internally they have no moving parts and a smooth internal tube that the water passes through so they are less likely to trap/hold water or minerals. Electronic meters have internal batteries that typically provide 10 to 20 years of operation.

4. Are there any meters that people in IM have already found to be acceptable? How much do they cost? What are their plusses and minuses?

There are two water meters and manufacturers that IM residents have installed. But note there is a wide variety of water meters on the market with different pluses and minuses, and which vary in costs. These two water meters seem to be popular but should not be construed to be the only models or those that are favored and promoted by the IM WSP.

- DLJ75 is sold by Daniel L Jerman Company in New Jersey; approximately $90; metal unit with mechanical device to measure water quantity. Ideal for 1/4-20 GPM flow rates on 3/4” cold water lines. The meter connects to 3/4” both sides (with appropriate adapters) and is ideal for monitoring residential water flow. [http://shop.watermeters.com/DLJ75-3-4-Water-Meter-DLJ75.htm](http://shop.watermeters.com/DLJ75-3-4-Water-Meter-DLJ75.htm).

- Sensus iPERL ¾ x 5/8 size, is approx. $164 which includes shipping. Sensus is distributed by Dana Kepner, Inc. which is listed as resource on the HASP website. The iPERL is a relatively sophisticated flow meter which has no internal moving parts. The meter is powered by an internal battery that is claimed to last 20 years. It can be installed in any orientation but requires a full pipe to function correctly. **Dana Kepner Company, Inc.** 700 Alcott St. | Denver, CO 80204 | 303.623.6161 Contact Ken Stookesbury.

- NOTE: Please note there may also be costs for additional fittings, a section of water pipe, and other attachments and supplies depending on your current set up.

5. Can I have a knowledgeable person come to my IM residence and discuss options for water meters and installation?

- Pete Ambrose, full-time IM resident and licensed home building contractor, has offered to provide advice and has installed more than 20 water meters to date. Call 719-839-0938 or by email at ambrosehomebuilders@yahoo.com

6. Do I need to install a water meter within a set time period after submitting my application to join the IM Water Service Program?

- The IM WSP policy is for participants to have their water meter installed and certified within 6 months after submitting their IM WSP Application Form, but the IMMD Board understands this is not realistic in the initial start-up year of the program.
- Please keep in mind that you are not fully a participant in the IM WSP program until you have your water meter installed and certified. More specifically, you will not receive your water augmentation certificate until after the water meter is installed and certified, nor will IMMD notify the Park County Clerk and Recorder’s Office and the Division of Water Resources that you are now augmenting your well through the IM WSP until after your water meter is installed and certified.

7. Can I install my own water meter?

- Yes. Furthermore, you do not have to have a licensed person install your water meter so a friend, neighbor, relative, or other IM WSP participant may install your water meter if you choose.
- Note that all meters have a special thread on each end and adapters are required to connect to whatever type and size of pipe you have in your home.

8. Are there any tips for those who chose to install their own water meter?

- The water meter should be installed inside your house
- Consider a location that is convenient to access and where the meter dial is easy to read (unless you will also install a remote display.)
- All meters need to be protected from freezing or be able to be fully drained in cold weather.
- The meter should be located near where your main water pipe from the well comes into your home, and before where your main water pipe begins to divide and split off to direct water to different parts of the house such as to laundry room, bathroom, and hot water tank). Meters can be installed before or after the pressure tank but must be installed before any distribution or usage points. A tank drain, if provided, should be located after the meter. A drain located immediately after the meter may also serve as a convenient test connection for meter certification.

9. What does water meter certification mean, and is it necessary and important?

- The HASP augmentation plan, under which the IM WSP operates, legally requires that each water meter be tested and certified after installation; that is, is the water meter accurately reading the quantity of water passing through the water pipe within a +/- 5% accuracy.
- Although new meters have a certified accuracy, it is also required that the completed meter installation be certified.
- During the meter certification test all water flow must flow through your meter and then through the test meter. This is the reason for installing testing valves in order to eliminate the chance of flowing more water through your meter than flows through the test meter. Installing a fitting for use in certification testing may make certification easier, faster and therefore less expensive.
- Currently the DWR prefers that one fifteen minute flow through both meters is recorded for flow and time.

10. How often do I need to have my water meter re-certified?

- Every 10 years.
11. Who do I contact to certify my meter? What is a reasonable price for the certification?

We suggest you check with Pete Ambrose (719-839-0938) or Samantha Bertin (719-836-9043). HASP has a list of certified water meter testers but the closest people are in Leadville and Lakewood. (www.haspwater.com/resources/20160229ListOfCertifiedWellTesters.pdf.) That may be your best option in 2017, but we are trying to identify local certifiers. Based upon the price charged to IMMD to have the Community Center water meter certified, we would estimate $100-$200 plus travel expenses.

12. When will I obtain my augmentation certificate?

- In the first quarter of 2018, the 2017 enrollees will receive their water augmentation certificate from IMMD after they have submitted a copy of their water meter certification results which verify the meter is operating properly. The IM WSP Program Administrator, Samantha Bertin, will provide the certificate to you.

13. How about wells not connected to a home/cabin?

- Some people have wells that are not connected to a residence; that is, they use a small amount of water for their RV or camping. We suggest you contact Pete Ambrose. There is a way to install a water meter. The important factor it to disconnect the meter during the “freeze” time of the year.