

March 23, 2015

Dear John,

Thank you for including us in the report to your board of directors. Your observations are vital to continuing to improve and refine our water harvesting programs. We have already been discussing some of the issues you discovered on your visit. I also very much enjoyed your visit. It is not often that we have the benefit of fresh eyes to help us see "the forest for the trees"!

Alejandro and Saul (CEDESA) are planning a cistern by cistern review of the project in La Banda/Montecillo to determine where we could have done better. We will include you in a report of that visit.

We are ramping up the educational component in future projects and adding a few additional requirements for each cistern constructed. First, as you suggest a thorough final visit to each cistern will be conducted before we sign off. It will be required that the systems be fully connected and functional at the end of each construction phase regardless of whether it is the "rainy" season or not. Also a new requirement is that each roof be thoroughly cleaned and prepared for the next rain even if it is a surprise March rain that we rarely see. (We had a wild rain storm two weekends ago and the pilot in La Banda and in Vivienda are almost full!)

From an educational standpoint, we are adding 8 classes that must be completed by recipients before they receive construction materials. The eight classes are outlined at the end of the attached document. Delivering mineral free water through water harvesting eliminates the gravest problems that many families in the campo face, but it does not assure the each family is getting the purest water possible. This we hope to change by helping people integrate good water and sanitation habits in their daily lives. This educational component will be obligatory with the next grant. Meanwhile, we will begin testing our lesson plans in the next three communities scheduled for our current grant.

Last fall, Saul and I visited about 150 cisterns that had been completed in past projects to learn about durability and maintenance. A similar review was undertaken by Saul also in 2014 when he visited several hundred cisterns as well. We have learned a few things to improve the cisterns themselves and encourage better daily maintenance but we did not formalize work. Inspections is an ongoing process but I can report that over 95% of the cisterns are still doing their jobs as designed. Curiously the "public" pilot cisterns done in schools are the worst maintained and that is because there is a "lack of ownership". I have suspended building any public

cisterns until we can find a better plan which, at a minimum, will require us to have one hour per day with the school teachers and students during the construction of a school pilot cistern. We also plan to work with district school supervisors to get a better buy-in before any school projects are undertaken. From the visits conducted by Saul and me, I do believe that the cisterns we are building will last for many years, even generations, so long as minimal maintenance is undertaken. Our first cisterns in Los Torres (2009) are fully functioning and holding up without any signs of "wearing out" some seven years later.

A more formal evaluation of the past projects, as you suggest, is a good idea. Saul's and my visits to older cisterns have been informal and while that helps us, it does not necessary help future projects by formalizing the improvements needed. If we could work with Lotus on that I would be very pleased.

We are now actively seeking partners for our next global grant to begin at the end of the current project. I am seeking US\$170,000 for the next 240 cisterns. I hope that Lotus will continue to be a major funder in this. I have attached the outline for that grant to this email.

We are so grateful for your support in the current project. We are very hopeful that you will continue to actively support us not only financially, but also in helping us improve the work we do.

Sincerely yours,

Lee Carter

Rotary San Miguel MIDDAY
Water harvesting: <http://02h2o.blogspot.mx/>

See our video: <https://vimeo.com/user10520825/review/83880880/2ba8f337f8%20>