



# ON TAP

*"Drinking Water You Can Trust"*

Vol. 23 Issue 1

March 1, 2009

## 2008 YEAR IN REVIEW

2008 was a slow yet busy year for Umpqua Basin Water Association, Inc. Our membership grew with the addition of 26 new members. Unfortunately, with the issues in regards to our current economy and housing market, we lost 13 members. Your Association grew to a total of 3,236 members. This is an increase of less than one half of a percent, which is far below what we have experienced in the past few years.

Our distribution system also grew slowly with only two projects in 2008. Both of these projects added fire service lines for businesses, not residential water mainlines.

## CURRENT AND PLANNED SYSTEM UPGRADES

Your Association embarked on one of its largest projects to date. Due to the replacement of Browns Bridge, UBWA had to replace the current water mainline that was hanging on Browns Bridge. UBWA had to have a 950', 30" diameter hole bored under the North Umpqua River and a new 22" HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) line installed. This new mainline has a life expectancy greater than that of a standard ductile iron water line and will probably outlast the next two new bridges.

ODOT is planning on replacing the Winchester Interchange sometime in 2010. Unfortunately, UBWA also has a water mainline hanging on this overpass. Your Association is currently exploring the costs of installing a new water mainline underneath the I-5 Freeway. This new mainline will also be a 22" HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) line like the one underneath the North Umpqua River.

## NEW ENTRANCE FOR UBWA

Your Association has completed a new entrance. With the new entrance we have also relocated the payment box. The new location for the payment box is approximately 50' inside the new entrance at the end of the center divider. This new entrance is located off of Candy Lane. If you are coming from the Del Rio side of the North Umpqua River, you will turn right on Quail Lane (by the Grange) and make an immediate right turn on Candy Lane and the new entrance will be on your right side. If you are coming from the Melrose Rd. side of the Umpqua River, you will turn left on Quail Lane (by the Grange) and make an immediate right turn on Candy Lane and the new entrance will be on your right side. You will also notice that we have striped the parking lot to accommodate more vehicles. Due to the construction of the Browns Bridge, the old entrance will be closed to all traffic as of April 1, 2009.

## THE NORTH UMPQUA RIVER

The North Umpqua River is a tributary of the Umpqua River, approximately 100 miles long, in southwestern Oregon in the United States. It drains a scenic and rugged area of the Cascade Range southwest of Eugene, flowing through steep canyons and surrounded by large Douglas fir forests.

The North Umpqua River rises in the high Cascades, issuing from Maidu Lake at an elevation of 5,980 feet in the Mount Thielsen Wilderness. The small natural freshwater 20-acre lake is named for an Indian tribe of the Sierra Nevada region of California.

The North Umpqua River then runs along the Douglas county line approximately 70 miles east of Roseburg. It is impounded in its upper reaches in the Cascades to form Lemolo Lake for hydroelectricity. It is also impounded for hydroelectricity at Soda Springs Dam, forming a small reservoir on the upper river. The North Umpqua River then follows a serpentine course down from the Cascades, westward along the southern side of the Calapooya Mountains. The River's upper course passes through the Umpqua National Forest, past Toketee Falls and Steamboat, where it receives Steamboat Creek from the north. It receives the Little River from the south at Glide and joins the South Umpqua from the east approximately 5 miles northwest of Roseburg.

## WHAT IS A BACKFLOW DEVICE ?

What is Backflow and why is it so important? Backflow is the undesirable reversal of flow of a consumer's potable water system and or non-potable water or other substance into the public water system. Why do you need a backflow device? A backflow prevention device is used to protect water supplies from contamination or pollution. Many types of backflow prevention devices also have test cocks so that they can be tested or examined to ensure that they are functioning properly. In the United States, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) holds local water suppliers responsible for maintaining a certain amount of purity in potable water systems. The state of Oregon requires annual testing of backflow prevention assemblies. A check valve is a common form of backflow prevention. Backflow prevention protects the potable water system from minor, moderate, and severe hazards. There are over 10,000 reported cases of backflow contamination each year. Some cases can be fatal. Backflow devices are required by law where needed and must be installed in accordance with plumbing or building codes. A backflow assembly has test cocks and shut-off valves. The backflow device must be tested on an annual basis. It must also be tested at installation and again if relocated or repaired.

## RATE ADJUSTMENT

The Board of Directors adopted a rate adjustment of 3% for 2009. The monthly demand charge of \$14.00 per month remains unchanged and the monthly allowance for uncharged consumption remains at 1000 gallons. The commodity charge is now \$4.55/per thousand gallons up to 50,000 gallons and \$3.00/per thousand gallons over 50,001 gallons. The surcharge of .50¢/per 1000 gallon will remain in effect until the Association pays off the loan for the new water treatment plant.

## FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING

Umpqua Basin Water Association Inc., will be holding its **Forty-Third Annual Meeting** at the Riversdale Grange Hall on Thursday evening, March 19, 2009, at 7:30 PM. The Agenda includes the election of two (2) Board Members, an update on the current status of the Association, a review of recently completed projects, and an opportunity for questions, answers and general discussion.

Names of the nominees for the Board Member positions are posted in the office of the Association. Copies of the Annual Financial Statement will be available at the Annual Meeting or from the Association office upon request.

**This is your Association. Please join us for the 2009 Annual Meeting. Light refreshments will be served.**

### Umpqua Basin Water Association, Inc.

District	Director	Area Served	Term Expires
1	John Stenbeck	Garden Valley W. / Lower Garden Valley	March 2010
2	Jeff Byers	San Souci / Braunda / Colonial	March 2009*
3	Kevin Bunnell**	Lookingglass / Happy Valley	March 2009*
4	Mike Brinkley	Melrose	March 2011
5	Don Bentz	Fisher / Garden Valley	March 2011
6	Frank Schuchard	Wilbur / College	March 2010
At-Large	Mike Luttrell	Entire System	March 2010

\* Director Positions up for election \*\*Nominee for District 3

## THE PEOPLE BEHIND YOUR WATER

Every day, millions of people turn on their faucets, but give little thought to the water that streams out. How does water move from its initial source through the treatment process and ultimately to our taps? And who are the skilled women and men responsible for bringing us our drinking water and what exactly do they do? The professionals that perform these daily tasks are certified and complete countless hours of training,

## UBWA AND OTHER WATER DISTRICTS

Your Association currently serves approximately 8,500 persons with 22 reservoirs and 13 pump stations. The Association currently employs 11 persons. The current storage capacity is 4.68 million gallons of water and the service area is spread out over 100 square miles. The coverage in square miles is equivalent to the area of Baton Rouge, Louisiana or twice the area of Des Moines, Iowa and ten times the area of Cleveland, Ohio. When you couple those facts with 271 miles of pipeline in the ground, you get a clear image of the overall area that your Association maintains. In comparison; Roberts Creek Water employs 11 persons, serves approximately 6,900 persons and has 42 miles of pipeline with 3 reservoirs. The city of Roseburg employs approximately 20 persons, operates on revenue and a portion of the City tax fund, serves approximately 30,000 persons and has approximately 175 miles of pipeline with 9 reservoirs. In comparison to our neighboring water districts, your Association has a smaller work force and covers up to six times the area.

## ANNUAL LEAK RELIEF POLICY?

Currently your Association offers a Leak Relief Policy. The current leak relief is available once in the ownership of the membership. Once you have exercised your Leak Relief option, there is nothing left to protect you if you have another leak. What if your Association offered an Annual Leak Relief Policy? There are many reasons why you may choose to enroll in a policy that will help you out in a time of another leak. This policy may be a viable option in the near future. This new policy could help to relieve a portion of the financial impact that another leak may bring and also give you piece of mind.

Your Association is currently exploring the options of this new policy. What would it do for you? Here is an example: John Q Homeowner had a 75,000 gallon leak in 2005 which caused him to use the only leak relief currently offered. Then in 2009 John has another leak while he is on vacation and this leak hits 150,000 gallons. When he comes home from vacation he gets the problem fixed and then receives his new water bill for the 150,000 gallon leak. Under the standard policy he would now have to pay for all of the water that passed through his meter. That could add up to a lot of money. Today that bill would be \$611.95. Compare that to his normal usage of \$65.00. John would be responsible for \$611.95 which is \$546.95 more than his normal bill. This could be especially detrimental in bad economic times.

So, what if your Association offered a policy that would assist with your next leak? What would it cost? As a Member, would this be something that might help give you piece of mind? What would you be willing to pay to have this option, \$3 per month or 6% of your monthly water bill? What if your Association also offered to repair that leak at our current rates? We would like to hear from you on this subject. You can call us at 541-672-5559 or you can send us an email at info@ubwa.org.