



ON TAP

"Drinking Water You Can Trust"

Vol. 24 Issue 1

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2009 YEAR IN REVIEW

2009 was a year of slow growth for Umpqua Basin Water Association, Inc. Our membership grew with the addition of 4 new members. We had 19 new members join the Association but, we lost 15 members. Your Association grew to a total of 3,240 members.

CURRENT AND PLANNED SYSTEM UPGRADES

In 2009 your Association completed one of its largest projects to date. We replaced the water mainline that was hanging on Browns Bridge with a 950', 22" HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) line, under the North Umpqua River. This new mainline has a life expectancy that will probably outlast the next two new bridges.

ODOT and Douglas County are in the development stages of a new overpass that will be replacing the current Del Rio Rd over pass (exit 129). At this time UBWA is considering where our current line, which is attached to the current over pass, will be located. We are currently working with all the landowners, Douglas County, ODOT and others in this process.

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 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. It must also be tested at installation and again if relocated or repaired. 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.

LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS

In January of this year your Association along with the Oregon Department of Energy and the Energy Trust of Oregon, completed a lighting improvement project on all the lights here at the main facilities. The cost of \$18,000, replaced the interior and exterior lights with energy efficient products. We should receive about a 50% refund of this money, given that this was an Energy Trust and DOE qualified project. We will see additional savings over the next 3.5 years which will return all of our total investment. We expect to see a annual savings to our energy bill of approximately \$2,500 per year.

RATE ADJUSTMENT

The Board of Directors voted to increase the monthly Base Rate by \$2.00. The monthly allowance for uncharged consumption remains at 1000 gallons. The commodity charge will remain unchanged for 2010. The current rate is \$4.55/per thousand gallons up to 50,000 gallons and \$3.00/per thousand gallons over 50,001 gallons.

FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

Umpqua Basin Water Association Inc., will be holding the **Forty-Fourth Annual Meeting** at the Riversdale Grange Hall on Thursday evening, March 25, 2010, at 7:30 PM. The Agenda includes the election of three (3) 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 2010 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 2012
3	Kevin Bunnell	Lookingglass / Happy Valley	March 2012
4	Mike Brinkley	Melrose	March 2011
5	Don Bentz	Fisher / Garden Valley	March 2011
6	Curtis Sandfort	Wilbur / College	March 2010*
At-Large	Mike Luttrell	Entire System	March 2010*

* Director Positions up for election

UBWA AND OTHER WATER DISTRICTS

Your Association has a staff of 12 personnel and currently serves approximately 8,500 people with 22 reservoirs and 13 pump stations. 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 276 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 people, serves 9 square miles with approximately 6,900 people and has 42 miles of pipeline with 3 reservoirs. The city of Roseburg employs approximately 20 people, operates on revenue and a portion of the City tax fund, serves approximately 30,000 people 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.

LANDLORD AND TENANT AGREEMENTS

Do you have a rental home? Your Association has put together two forms to assist you and your tenants. One of the forms will allow you to still receive your water bill along with other correspondences and it will allow you to add your tenants so that they will also receive a copy of the bill and correspondences. There is a charge of \$5.00 per duplicate mailing but it keeps you updated on your account. The other form allows you to send all the bills, and other correspondences (late notices etc..) only to the tenant and if you keep your address and phone number current with our office, we will notify you within 72 hours prior to the potential forfeiture of your account. If you have a tenant and would like to take advantage of one of the new forms, just pick up the phone and call us or you can send us an email at info@ubwa.org. We can mail or email you any one of these forms.

SCHOOL SCIENCE PROJECT

Feb. 20, 2006 — Jasmine Roberts never expected her award-winning middle school science project to get so much attention. But the project produced some disturbing results: 70 percent of the time, ice from fast food restaurants was dirtier than toilet water.

The 12-year-old collected ice samples from five restaurants in South Florida — from both self-serve machines inside the restaurant and from drive-thru windows. She then collected toilet water samples from the same restaurants and tested all of them for bacteria at the University of South Florida. In several cases, the ice tested positive for E. coli bacteria, which comes from human waste and has been linked to several illness outbreaks across the country.

"These [bacteria] don't belong there," said Dr. David Katz, medical contributor to "Good Morning America." "It's not cause for panic, although it is alarming because what she found is nothing new. You're not more likely to get sick now. But she's done us a favor by sounding the alarm." Both Roberts and Katz said that the ice is likely dirtier because machines aren't cleaned and people use unwashed hands to scoop ice. Toilet water is also surprisingly bacteria-free, because it comes from sanitized city water supplies.