



ON TAP

"Drinking Water You Can Trust"

Vol. 28 Issue 1

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2013 YEAR IN REVIEW

As we enter into 2014 we bid farewell to 2013. Our membership grew with the addition of 34 new members. We had 39 new members join the Association but, we lost 5 members. Your Association grew to a total of 3,333 members. The real estate market was not as busy as last year but we did have 118 sales of new and used homes within our district.

CURRENT AND PLANNED SYSTEM UPGRADES

In 2014, your Association will take on part two of the process of mapping all the fire hydrants, mainline valves, water meters, vaults, reservoirs, pump stations, and waterlines. Mapping of the entire system includes locating each point along the way using the Global Positioning Satellite system (GPS). This will help us to streamline our process when we are locating waterlines for the One Call system. This will also help us to better identify all of the underground assets for the Association.

In 2014, Douglas County will be working on the Old Hwy 99 North by the curve and the Wilbur Store. The Association has a waterline that crosses under Old Hwy 99 North at the Wilbur Store which will be replaced during construction. The cost of this project will be around \$15,000.

Your Association will also be performing maintenance on pump station buildings and reservoirs along with upgrading a few pump station pump controls with new Variable Frequency Drives (VFD). Using VFD's will help to control pressure surges when the pumps engage by slowly bringing the pumps up to speed instead of just turning the pumps on. The VFD's will also assist the pump by running it more efficiently which translates in savings on the power bill. The VFD's will run about \$2500 to \$8000 each.

INSTALLING OR REPLACING A FENCE ?

Do you have a fence that is surrounding your property and you are thinking about replacing it? When planning out your next fence project please take into consideration the location and access of your water meter. Your Association needs immediate access to your meter in case of emergency and for general meter reading. You may also have a UBWA main service line fenced in. Having a mainline fenced in leave us with no way to access the mainline for maintenance or emergency repairs. So, before your next fence project please call us so we can identify whether UBWA has a mainline on your property or see if we need a lockable gate to access the water meter.

CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG

Planning a home improvement job? Planting a tree? Installing or replacing a fence or deck? Digging a pond? Replacing your mailbox? Do you know that it is illegal to start digging on your property without first calling 811 for an underground locate? **WAIT!** Here's what you need to know first: Whether you are planning to do it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means calling 811 before each job! Homeowners often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked, but every digging job requires a call – even small projects like planting trees and shrubs. The depth of utility lines varies and there may be multiple utility lines in a common area. Digging without calling can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm you and those around you and potentially result in fines and repair costs. You may not know it but our waterlines may be running through your yard. Less than 1% of our waterlines run along or are in the road. About 99% of our installed waterlines lay within private easements across private property. These waterlines have been there since the mid to late 1960's.

Call 811 from anywhere in the country a few days prior to digging, and your call will be routed to your local One Call Center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig, what type of work you will be doing and your affected local utilities companies will be notified about your intent to dig. In a few days, they'll send a locator to mark the approximate location of your underground lines, pipes and cables. The professional locators will mark the approximate location of the buried facilities with paint or flags. A call to the One-Call Center protects the homeowner/excavator from possibly being charged thousands of dollars to repair damaged facilities in the event of a dig-in accident.

Oregon law requires that anyone digging on private property, easement or in any public right of way must call the One Call Center prior to digging. Everyone, contractor and homeowner alike, must call two business days prior to digging. After the call is received, the One-Call Center will notify all affected utilities. The Operators then have two business days to locate and accurately mark their underground facilities using color-coded paint. Each color indicates a universal color to what is buried below ground. Red – Electric, Orange – Communications, Telephone/CATV, Blue – Potable Water, Green – Sewer/Drainage, Yellow – Gas/Petroleum Pipe Line, Purple – Reclaimed Water, White – Premark site of intended excavation.

Remember, know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig.

RATE ADJUSTMENT

The Board of Directors voted no rate increase for 2014. The current commodity rate of \$4.55/per thousand gallons up to 50,000 gallons remains unchanged. The commodity rate for over 50,001 gallons was increased from \$3.00/per thousand gallons to \$3.10/per thousand gallons. The monthly allowance for uncharged consumption remains at 1000 gallons. The surcharge of .50¢/per 1000 gallon will remain in effect until the Association pays off the loan for the water treatment plant. There will be no increase on the base rate of \$18.00 for 2014.

FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING

Umpqua Basin Water Association, Inc. will be holding the **Forty-Eighth Annual Meeting** at the Associations office on Thursday evening, March 20, 2014, 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 2014 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 2016
2	Jeff Byers	San Souci / Braunda / Colonial	March 2015
3	Kevin Bunnell	Lookingglass / Happy Valley	March 2015
4	Mike Brinkley	Melrose	March 2014*
5	Alex Palm	Fisher / Garden Valley	March 2014*
6	Curtis Sandfort	Wilbur / College	March 2016
At-Large	Mike Luttrell	Entire System	March 2016

* **Director Positions up for election**

UBWA AND OTHER WATER DISTRICTS

Your Association has a staff of 10 and currently serves approximately 8,500 people with 22 reservoirs and 13 pump stations. The current storage capacity is 5.475 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 277 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 10 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.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT SECURITY

In 2013 your Association was awarded a 50% matching grant from Special Districts Association of Oregon and with that installed a new safety fence/railing around our backwash ponds. This was an area that our insurance company identified as a potential area of issue. So we addressed this area of concern by installing a double railed railing all around the backwash pond area with access gates at certain points. The cost for this project was \$6500. Now installed, this railing will provide a visual and physical barrier from anyone potentially falling into one of the two backwash ponds. These backwash ponds serve as the conduits that deliver all of the recycled water back to the river.

BACKFLOW PREVENTION AND CROSS CONNECTIONS

Have you met our new Backflow Inspector?

Terrell Moore has been with UBWA for over 22 yrs. Terrell is well versed in the operations of UBWA's Rules and Regulation regarding Backflow. He is here to help you understand what backflow is and why it is so important. If you have not yet met Terrell and you have a backflow device, I am sure you will meet him in the near future.

What do "cross connection" and "backflow" mean?

A cross connection is a connection between a potable drinking water pipe and a non-potable source. For example: you're planning to spray weed killer on your lawn. You hook up your hose to the faucet on your house and to the sprayer containing the weed killer. If the water pressure drops at the same time you turn on the hose, the pressure change may cause the chemical in the sprayer to be sucked back into your home's plumbing system through the hose. This is called backflow and could contaminate the water in your home system.

Water utilities deal with this issue on a much larger scale. Imagine if your hose were connect to a fire hydrant or a public access faucet (e.g. a campground), then the weed killer would be sucked into the public water supply. Backflow from customer service connections is of concern to water utilities, and has been shown to occur in 1.6% of all meter reads and in 5% of homes.

How is my water provider working to prevent backflow?

Programs include required annual testing of commercial and residential backflow devices by certified technicians. Residential and commercial buildings requiring backflow prevention devices are identified and monitored.