



ON TAP

"Drinking Water You Can Trust"

Vol. 29 Issue 1

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2014 YEAR IN REVIEW

As we enter into 2015 we bid farewell to 2014. Our membership grew with the addition of 21 new members. We had 23 new members join the Association but, we lost 2 members. Your Association grew to a total of 3,345 members. The real estate market was busier than last year since we did have 149 sales of new and used homes within the district.

In 2014, Knife River Inc, while working for Douglas County, completed a project on Old Hwy 99 North by the curve at the Wilbur Store. The Association had a 2" galvanized waterline that crossed under Old Hwy 99 North at the Wilbur Store. The line was replaced and upgraded with an 8" Ductile Iron line. The cost of this project to the Association was \$22,796.60.

We completed an upgrade to the West View Pump Station. Replaced were 4, 120volt single phase 1970's pumps with 2, 230v three phase pumps that are controlled with a VFD (Variable Frequency Drive). The VFD's convert single phase power to three phase power, they control the speed of the pumps as they start up and shut down. By controlling the start up and shut down the VFD eases the pressure on the system which helps to protect the infrastructure. VFD's also help to trim the energy costs to the pump station by almost 50% while at the same time increasing pump capacity to the West View Reservoir.

Due to Microsoft ending support for the XP operating system we were forced replaced several computers in the office with new units that run with the Windows 7 operating system. We also upgraded the office server that was running out of room using Windows Server 2003 to a new server running on Windows Server 2008.

CURRENT AND PLANNED SYSTEM UPGRADES

In 2015, your Association will be performing maintenance on pump station buildings, reservoirs, office and storage buildings. This includes painting, new roofs, and siding.

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 a 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 for no rate increase for 2015. 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 also remains unchanged at \$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 in 2015 for the base rate which is currently \$18.00.

FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL MEETING

Umpqua Basin Water Association, Inc. will be holding the **Forty-Ninth Annual Meeting** at the Associations office on Thursday evening, March 19, 2015, 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 2015 Annual Meeting. Light refreshments will be served.

Umpqua Basin Water Association, Inc.

District	Director	Area Served	Term Expires
1	Sam Carter	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 2017
5	Alex Palm	Fisher / Garden Valley	March 2017
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

The 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 278 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 21 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, The Association has a smaller work force and covers up to six times the area.

METER READ SCOOTERS

In 2012 your Association added 3 older meter reader scooters to the system. In the past we have used Ford Rangers to read water meters. The small trucks did work very well for this task but they were only getting about 6mpg on average. Once we got the scooters cleaned up, serviced and running a lot of things changed. The staff that read meters stated that they can actually read meters faster because they don't have to deal with the size of the Ranger. The gas mileage for the scooters is running about 17mpg to 20mpg. The savings in cost of fuel alone is about \$5,000 per year. If you add in the time savings for the staff, then you can quickly see how these scooters have been a great addition to the UBWA fleet.

BACKFLOW PREVENTION AND CROSS CONNECTIONS

Have you met our new Backflow Inspector?

Terrell Moore has been with UBWA for over 24 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.