



# ON TAP

*"Drinking Water You Can Trust"*

Vol. 22 Issue 1

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## 2007 YEAR IN REVIEW

2007 was a very busy and successful year for Umpqua Basin Water Association, Inc. Our membership continues to grow with the addition of 37 new members giving your Association a total of 3,223 members. This is an increase of 1.0% which is far below what we have experienced in the past few years.

Our distribution system also continues to grow with the addition of nearly 11,931 feet (2.26 miles) of new mainline serving 46 new lots. Nine separate extension line projects were built, paid for, and donated to your Association by customers and developers with a total value of \$555,548.00.

In addition, your Association has upgraded the billing and computer system. We have overcome some challenges with the conversion to the new program and we are confident that this billing system is a good fit for your Association.

The new water treatment plant has been producing an excellent quality of water exceeding all current regulations set forth by Oregon DHS, and EPA standards. As new and emerging regulations come into view from Oregon DHS and EPA, your Association will now have the ability to not only meet but exceed those regulations.

Your Association currently serves approximately 8,500 persons with 22 reservoirs and 13 pump stations. The Association currently employs 12 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.

## PLANNED SYSTEM UPGRADES

The Board of Directors recently adopted a 5-year Capital Improvement Plan that outlines anticipated capital improvement projects through 2011. Expenditures will be in the \$300,000 to \$500,000 range annually and will be funded within the Association's financial plan through the Capital Improvement and Funded Depreciation Funds. The projects will address growth as well as aging infrastructure. State and County road and bridge replacements will also require some mainline replacement. No additional debt will be incurred to address these needs. Projects of interest include the Del Rio Rd/I-5 interchange realignment, Brown's Bridge, mainline upgrades on Melrose Rd. (Fir Ridge Road to Doerner Rd), Wulff Ln., Champagne Creek Canyon, Wilbur Cutoff Rd., Silver Maple Ln., Jonni Ln., Happy Valley Rd., and a creek crossing in the Diamond Valley Subdivision. Finally, we will be building an additional reservoir in the Wilbur area to address growing commercial/industrial demand.

## STRAIGHT TALK ON WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

As a society, we rely on a safe and abundant water supply. According to recent statistics compiled by the U.S. Geological Survey, the United States uses 408 billion gallons of water each day. And whether it is for simple things like washing the car and taking a shower, or more serious ones like fighting fires and growing crops, we would be hard pressed if our water infrastructure was not able to deliver to us our most valuable natural resource. The drinking water industry is committed to working with all levels of government and with the public to reinforce or repair the country's water infrastructure as it ages. The American drinking water infrastructure network spans over 700,000 miles, more than four times longer than the National Highway System. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and others estimate that water and wastewater infrastructure repair costs may be as much as \$745 billion to \$1 trillion over the next 20 years.

## THE VALUE OF WATER SERVICE

We are all beneficiaries of this magnificent network of treatment plants, pump stations and pipes through out the United States that was handed down to us by generations before. Yet because our water infrastructure has lasted so long, we haven't had to worry about the expense of replacing it. However, in the next few decades, much of that network is going to need upgrading or replacement. We can therefore be sure that tap water service will cost more in the future than it does today.

We have arrived at a turning point. The choice we face, the turning point, is either to adopt strategies to renew our water infrastructure, or accept the erosion over time of reliable water service. If we begin to move toward rate structures and financing plans that reflect the full cost of water service, we will avoid rate shock in the in the years ahead. When you consider the critical needs addressed by water service, tap water will always be a tremendous value. In fact, it will be a bargain. You simply cannot put a price on a service that delivers public health, fire protection, economic development and quality of life.

## RATE ADJUSTMENT

The Board of Directors adopted a rate adjustment of 3% for 2008. 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 \$4.42/per thousand gallons up to 50,000 gallons and \$2.92/per thousand gallons over 50,000 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-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING

Umpqua Basin Water Association Inc., will be holding its **Forty-Second Annual Meeting** at the Riversdale Grange Hall on Thursday evening, March 20, 2008, 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 2008 Annual Meeting and exercise your right to vote and be heard. 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	Roy Ellis	Lookingglass / Happy Valley	March 2009
4	<b>Mike Brinkley</b>	<b>Melrose</b>	<b>March 2008*</b>
5	<b>Don Bentz</b>	<b>Fisher / Garden Valley</b>	<b>March 2008*</b>
6	Frank Schuchard	Wilbur / College	March 2010
At-Large	Entire System	Entire System	March 2010

\* **Director Positions up for election**

## BOTTLED vs. TAP WATER

There is no shortage of news stories these days on the merits of tap water and bottled water from a variety of different perspectives. The truth is, while tap water and bottled water are regulated differently, both are generally safe, healthy choices. But only tap water delivers public health protection, fire protection, support for the economy and the overall quality of life we enjoy. Tap water is critical to the day-to-day operations of existing businesses and to the viability of new commercial enterprises or residential developments. Tap water is more than a convenience; it is central to our everyday lives.

## SHOULD I BUY BOTTLED WATER?

These days, consumers are constantly searching for the latest diet advice in an effort to look and feel our best. The problem is that we are constantly inundated with conflicting recommendations about what is good for us and what isn't. And while it often seems like nutritionists, doctors, and other health authorities can't agree on anything, there is one practice that is promoted across the board -- from Atkins and South Beach to the Grapefruit Diet and everywhere in between, the mantra is clear: **drink plenty of water!**

You don't need to buy bottled water for health reasons if your drinking water meets all of the federal, state, or provincial drinking water standards (ask your local supplier.) If you want a drink with a different taste, you can buy bottled water, but it costs up to 1,000 times more than municipal drinking water. Of course, in emergencies bottled water can be a vital source of drinking water for people without water.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires bottled water quality standards to be equal to those of the US Environmental Protection Agency for tap water, but the quality of the finished product is not government-monitored. Bottlers must test their source water and finished product once a year. Currently, any bottled water that contains contaminants in excess of the allowable level is considered mislabeled unless it has a statement of substandard quality.

Regulations require bottlers to inform consumers of "bottled water" contents. Although recent tests have not found any lead in dozens of brands of bottled water, studies have shown that microbes may grow in the bottles while on grocers' shelves.

## PREPARING YOUR WATER PIPES FOR THE WINTER AND GATE VALVES & CHECK VALVES

Every winter, many homeowners face the expense and inconvenience of frozen water pipes - make sure you're not one of them by taking a few simple precautions. Detaching the hose allows water to drain from the pipe so an overnight freeze doesn't burst the faucet or the pipe its connected to. Insulate pipes or faucets in unheated areas. It's best to rap water pipes in unheated areas (such as the garage or crawl space) before temperatures plummet.

Find the master shutoff valve usually located where the water line leaves your water meter. The master shutoff valve turns off the water to the entire house. Make sure the gate valve is in working order. Also examine the check valve and if it does not work or is missing, get it replaced. The check valve prevents the water from draining your line and keeps the lines in your home filled with water. Having a check valve in place will protect the water service to your home when a mainline is turned off for a repair or maintenance. Are the valves missing, do they need replacing, or do you have questions? Call us at 541-672-5559 or call your plumber.