



ON TAP

"Drinking Water You Can Trust"

Vol. 27 Issue 1

March 1, 2013

2012 YEAR IN REVIEW

As we enter into 2013 we bid farewell to 2012. Our membership grew with the addition of 18 new members. We had 24 new members join the Association but, we lost 6 members. Your Association grew to a total of 3,299 members. The real estate market was not as busy as last year but we did have 103 sales of new and used homes within our district.

CURRENT AND PLANNED SYSTEM UPGRADES

In 2013 your Association will begin 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.

ODOT has finished a new 12" waterline that was installed along most of the path of the new alignment. Douglas County Forest Products did install the second half of this new 12" line through their property to a point of reconnection at Old Highway 99 North. This new line has helped to reduce power consumption on the plant by increasing the flow of water to three (3) reservoirs in the College zones. It has also improved fire flows in the service areas north of the river bordering Old Hwy 99 North and the I-5 freeway. The cost was about \$239,000.00

Douglas County finished replacing the Dairy Loop/Lookingglass Rd Bridge. This bridge covers Morgan's Creek which is about a half mile before Strickland Canyon Rd. With this project we replaced a four inch (4") waterline with an eight inch (8") waterline that crosses on the current bridge. The cost of this project was \$46,203.00.

WATER METER READER SCOOTERS

Did you notice the new meter reader scooters? The Association purchased these to help improve our efficiency with fuel, and the process of meter reading. These units have a 4 cylinder gasoline engine, are center steer, and have two doors which allow the meter reader to exit the non traffic side of the road. The scooters are governed at 45mph and get around 25 to 28 mpg, which is about 4 times more efficient than our previous reading vehicles. The Association purchased these scooters used and refurbished them. We added a few more safety items to the scooters to increase their visibility. We use these scooters mainly for reading water meters, and general usage around the system. The fuel and time savings alone will pay for these scooters over the next two to three years.

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 maybe 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 to increase the Base Rate for 2013 from \$16.00 to \$18.00. 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.

FORTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING

Umpqua Basin Water Association, Inc. will be holding the **Forty-Seventh Annual Meeting** at the Associations office on Thursday evening, March 21, 2013, 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 2013 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 2013*
2	Jeff Byers	San Souci / Braunda / Colonial	March 2015
3	Kevin Bunnell	Lookingglass / Happy Valley	March 2015
4	Mike Brinkley	Melrose	March 2014
5	Don Bentz	Fisher / Garden Valley	March 2014
6	Curtis Sandfort	Wilbur / College	March 2013*
At-Large	Mike Luttrell	Entire System	March 2013*

* Director Positions up for election

UBWA AND OTHER WATER DISTRICTS

Your Association has a staff of 11 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 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.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT SECURITY

In 2012 your Association was awarded a 50% matching grant from Special Districts Association of Oregon and with that installed 20 (twenty) infrared, audio and visual security cameras. These cameras monitor all aspects of the water treatment plant and the grounds surrounding it. The cameras record all visual or audio activity on a 24/7/365 basis. They are also available for our staff to remotely monitor any issues that may have developed. Installing these cameras will help to ensure that our facilities are safe and secure. The cost of the camera system was \$6,890.25 and the grant was for \$3000.00. The system installation and setup was performed by the staff here at the Association.

BACKFLOW PREVENTION AND CROSS CONNECTIONS

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.