

# ON TAP

# "Drinking Water You Can Trust"

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#### **2019 YEAR IN REVIEW**

The Associations membership growth continued through 2019. The growth for 2019 picked up and surpassed that of 2017 and 2018. Our membership increased with the addition of 42 new members yet we still lost 4 members. Our 2019 growth came to a total of 38 additional connections. The Association members base grew to a total of 3,527 members. The 2019 Real Estate market kept pace with 2018 but did not surpass it. However, it was still a very busy year for the Association. We had 189 used home sales on the UBWA system as the total number dipped slightly as compared to 2018.

On the industrial side, Mahalo Heating and Air Condition will be relocating after Zerbach Construction completes their new facilities on Bourbon St. across the from new the Coca-Cola facility off of Del Rio Rd. The new facility is located in the industrial park development that is owned and developed by Back Nine Development LLC.

Your Association had 3 larger projects in 2019. One was the addition of 1,750 feet of 8" Zinc coated Ductile Iron pipe to serve a midsize, 8-10 lot subdivision off of Old Melrose Rd. This subdivision was designed by i.e. Engineering for Robert Imhof. While this project was being worked on, UBWA upgraded about 2,050 feet of waterline. Part of this upgrade was to replace an older 4" PVC waterline that serves this new subdivision. UBWA replaced the 4" PVC pipe with 8" Zinc coated Ductile Iron Pipe heading up Braunda Dr. The Zinc coating on the pipe and fittings is external only and is there to protect the exterior of the pipe from corrosion. The Zinc coating will cathodically protect the iron pipe as long as zinc is present, and over time, will convert to zinc compounds that provide an enduring passivating layer under the topcoat, which significantly extends the life of the pipe. Zinc is an anode, uniformly adhered to the surface of the pipe.

The second subdivision is slightly smaller with 3 lots which was also designed by i.e. Engineering for Timothy Drake. It is located off of Long Meadows Lane and Old Melrose Rd. This new subdivision is being served with a new 6" HDPE waterline and a new fire hydrant. While the subdivision was being planned UBWA upgraded about 230 feet of 4" pipe with new 8" HDPE that serves the waterline to the new subdivision and a waterline that supplies water to one of the Association's pump stations. This waterline runs along/across Old Melrose Rd. and up Long Meadows Lane.

# **CURRENT PLANNED SYSTEM / EQUIPMENT UPGRADES AND MAINTENANCE**

In 2020 we are planning a few upgrades for 2 of our 13 pump stations. The Lookingglass and Braunda pump stations are in the design stages for major upgrades. We are looking to replace both sets of pumps at these facilities with new, higher capacity vertical multi-stage pumps driven by Variable Frequency Drives (VFD's). The higher capacity pumps will allow us to be better prepared for more growth in these areas. We will also be working with the Energy Trust of Oregon in the design and installation process. The new VFD's will also allow us to operate our pumps with more precise control and will assist us with things such as our pumping capacity, energy usage, potential water hammer (surging), and customers demands.

Over the next several years, your Association will be retrofitting the balance of our pump stations with a similar setup. We completed these same upgrades to our Westview pump station back in 2014. The results from the upgrades made a huge difference in pumping time, operating and surging pressures, pumping capacities and energy consumption.

#### **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?

In 2020 the State changed some of the rules regarding the One Call System. Please check the website or stop by our office and pick up the new updated 811 Rule book.

# 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 vary 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 lie within private easements across private property.

Call 811 from anywhere in the country 48hrs 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. 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.

Remember, Know What's Below. Always Call 811 Before You Dig. It's FREE!

#### **RATE ADJUSTMENT**

The current commodity rate of \$4.55/per thousand gallons up to 50,000 gallons and the rate for over 50,001 gallons at \$3.10/per thousand gallons will remain unchanged. The monthly allowance for the uncharged consumption of 1000 gallons also remains unchanged. The surcharge of .50¢/per 1000 gallons will remain in effect until the Association pays off the loan for the water treatment plant. The baste rate for all meter sizes will not increase for 2020.

# FIFTY FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

Umpqua Basin Water Association, Inc. will be holding the FIFTY FOURTH Annual Meeting at the Association's office on Thursday evening, March 12, 2020 at 7:30PM. 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.

#### Please join us for the 2020 Annual Meeting. Light refreshments will be served.

# Board of Directors Representing Umpqua Basin Water Association, Inc.

District	Director	Area Served	Term Expires
1	Sam Carter	Garden Valley W. / Lower Garden Valley	March 2022
2	Jeff Byers	San Souci / Braunda / Colonial	March 2021
3	Kevin Bunnell	Lookingglass / Happy Valley	March 2021
4	Mike Brinkley	Melrose	March 2020*
5	Alex Palm	Fisher / Garden Valley	March 2020*
6	Curtis Sandfort	Wilbur / College	March 2022
At-Large	Scott Adams	Entire System	March 2022

<sup>\*</sup> Director Positions up for election

#### **UBWA MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Here at UBWA we take your membership certificate seriously and we want to ensure that your UBWA membership certificate is transferred, listed, bequeathed properly, and is up to date. The time to deal with these details is not during a life changing event. We would like to keep your membership current so that when one of the many life changing events comes your way, your UBWA membership is set or can be setup, or changed with little to no work on your part.

Life changing events that may occur in our life: divorce, death of a spouse or partner, death of both spouses or partners, death of a member with no heirs, creation/termination of a Trust, creation/termination of a business or LLC, or creation/change/termination of a will. I am sure that there are other events that could affect your membership.

There are tools out there like "with Right Of Survivorship" that can be used so that if a life changing event comes your way, your membership will transfer with little to no issue. For instance; when two non-married persons buy a membership they can take ownership of the membership as: Jane Doe and John Smith with Right Of Survivorship.

When you as a member first sign up for a Membership/Water Meter with UBWA you would have filled out a Membership Application and a Water Users Agreement. When you filled out the paper work, or if the Title Company filled it out for you, the name for which was placed in the top middle box of the application or agreement will be the exact way the Membership Certificate will be issued. If you are already working with an Attorney, make sure that they know you have a UBWA Membership that needs to be included in your estate planning.

The UBWA Membership is classified as "Personal Property" and DOES NOT automatically transfer with the title or sale of the property. Do you own property with a UBWA Membership that is, due to life changing events, out of date? If you have questions about any of the above information, please reach out to Jennifer in the front office and she will assist you with any of your questions.

# **UBWA AND OTHER WATER DISTRICTS**

The Association has a staff of 11 and currently serves approximately 9,200 people with 22 Tanks and 14 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 280 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 Tanks. 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 tanks. In comparison to our neighboring water districts, The Association has a smaller work force and covers up to six times the area.

#### **BACKFLOW PREVENTION AND CROSS CONNECTIONS**

# Have you met our Cross Connection Specialists?

We have added two more Cross Connection Specialists. Dustin Brigham and Anthony May have recently been certified with the state of Oregon. They are both well versed in the operations of UBWA's Rules and Regulation regarding Backflow. They work in tandem along with Caleb Needles and they are here to help you understand what backflow is and why it is so important. If you have not yet met either one of them, I am sure you will in the near future.

# What does "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 was connected 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.