



# ON TAP

*"Drinking Water You Can Trust"*

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## 2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

The Association's membership growth continued through 2020. Our Membership base increased with the addition of 44 new members yet we still lost 3 members. Our growth for 2020 came to a total of 41 additional connections. The Association members base grew to a total of 3,566 members. The 2020 Real Estate market kept pace with 2019 but did not surpass it. However, it was still a very busy year for the Association. We had 184 existing home sales on the UBWA system as the total number dipped slightly as compared to 2019.

As of October of 2020, UBWA has promoted Caleb Needles as the Association's Assistant Manager. Caleb has worked for the Association for just under 8 years. He has an Oregon Water Treatment and Distribution Level 2 Certification along with a Oregon Cross Connection Certification. Caleb is currently the Direct Responsible in Charge for the Association's Water Treatment Plant. To ensure business continuity, Caleb will be working alongside the General Manager to learn the aspects of managing the Association. Please welcome Caleb to his new position.

Your Association had a few large projects planned for 2020 which included upgrading 2 of our 13 pump stations with upgraded/larger pumps and install Variable Frequency Drives. Due to COVID, these upgrades were put on hold. We did have to replace a pump and motor at our Moorea Pump Station due to an issue with the electrical power supply in that area.

Your Association did launch a new website which was designed by a local firm; Systech. Erik Nielson with Systech did an outstanding job on the new look and feel of the Association's website. Please visit our website at [ubwa.org](http://ubwa.org)

## CURRENT PLANNED SYSTEM / EQUIPMENT UPGRADES AND MAINTENANCE

In 2022/2023 the Con-Ford bridge (the bridge close to Kruse Farms over the South Umpqua river) is scheduled for replacement by Douglas County. UBWA currently has a water line attached to the North and the South side of the bridge. Both of these lines serve two different areas of the system. We plan to replace these lines by boring underneath the South Umpqua River just to the south of the current bridge with two new 14" High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) waterlines.

The engineering for this project will be executed by i.e. Engineering. The new water lines will be approximately 25 feet below the bottom of the river in solid bedrock. Each water line will be about 1200 feet long and will be tied back into the system. The boring of the water lines will take about 7 weeks to complete as the whole project will take about 2.5 to 3 months to complete. The cost of this upgrade will be around \$625,000.00.

We are also updating our existing Master Plan which was last revised in 1999. A Master Plan is compiled by a third-party engineering firm and provides critical long-term planning information for the Association. The overall cost of the revised Master Plan is expected to be around \$100,000.00 to \$180,000.00. We are still in the process of accepting and reviewing bids. Typically Master Plans are updated around every 20 years per the State of Oregon.

## 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?

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!**

## 2021 WATER RATES

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 base rate for all meter sizes will not increase for 2021.

## FIFTY FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING

Umpqua Basin Water Association, Inc. will **NOT** be holding a publicly attended FIFTY FIFTH Annual Meeting on March 18, 2021 due to COVID restrictions. However, you can take this opportunity to respond with any questions or general discussion you may have for the Board of Directors, via email at office@ubwa.org.

Due to COVID restrictions the election of the two (2) Board Member positions for District 2 and District 3 up for election will be via email/mail in ballot. Anyone that would like to vote in this election should visit our website at www.ubwa.org to download a ballot. All you need to do is navigate to our website (www.ubwa.org) and under the "About Us" tab, click on the "Board of Directors" link. This will bring you to the list of Board of Directors. Just under the image of the "District Map" on the right side of the website, you will see a ballot box icon. There you can download a copy of the current ballot. Once you have the ballot, please fill it out and send it back to our office before the deadline of March 16th 2021. Remember, there are only two Districts up for election/reelection. They are District 2 and District 3.

Names of the nominees for the Board Member positions will be posted in the office of the Association. Current District 2 and District 3 Board Members which are up for reelection are listed below. Per the UBWA By-Laws; not more than two candidates shall be nominated for each vacancy from each district by the nomination committee. Any ten or more members from any given district acting together may make other nominations from their particular district up for election, but not otherwise, by petition filed at the principal office of the Association on or before March 5th of each year. The Secretary forthwith shall post the names of all such nominees at the same places as the list of nominations made by the nominating committee is posted.

### 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        | <b>Jeff Byers</b>    | <b>San Souci / Braunda / Colonial</b>  | <b>March 2021*</b> |
| 3        | <b>Kevin Bunnell</b> | <b>Lookingglass / Happy Valley</b>     | <b>March 2021*</b> |
| 4        | Mike Brinkley        | Melrose                                | March 2023         |
| 5        | Alex Palm            | Fisher / Garden Valley                 | March 2023         |
| 6        | Curtis Sandfort      | Wilbur / College                       | March 2022         |
| At-Large | Scott Adams          | Entire System                          | March 2022         |

\* 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 titled, transferred, 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 or concerns.

## BACKFLOW PREVENTION AND CROSS CONNECTIONS

### Have you met our newest Cross Connection Specialist team member?

We have added a new Cross Connection Specialists, Curtis Pine. Curtis is well versed in the operations of UBWA's Rules and Regulation regarding Backflow. He works in tandem alongside Caleb Needles. They are both 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.