




Commissioner's Corner
By Linda Oosterman, Commissioner, District 1

Are Water Leaks Costing you Money?

With the droughts and water shortages that are going on in different parts of the United States, I thought we could all use a reminder of how fortunate we are here in the Pacific Northwest to have a ample supply of water available to us. Below is a chart that shows how much water is lost when you have a leak. I have also included information on how to check for a water leak.

Leak Size	Gallons Per Day	Gallons Per Month
 A dripping leak consumes:	15 gallons	450 gallons
• A 1/32 in. leak consumes:	264 gallons	7,920 gallons
• A 1/16 in. leak consumes:	943 gallons	28,300 gallons
• A 1/8 in. leak consumes:	3,806 gallons	114,200 gallons
• A 1/4 in. leak consumes:	15,226 gallons	456,800 gallons
• A 1/2 in. leak consumes:	60,900 gallons	1,827,000 gallons

How to Check For a Water Leak

1. Shut off all the water in and outside of the house.
2. Find your meter. It is usually located near the road on the front part of your property. Most of the lids are painted blue and most meters are flush with the ground.
3. Look at the face of the meter. There will be a small triangle or circle that turns if water is running through the meter. If this dial is turning, you have a leak. If you don't see anything moving, take a meter read and wait 10 or 15 minutes and take another meter read.

Once you have determined you have a leak, you can call a plumber or try to find and fix the leak yourself. The most common places for leaks are: toilets, plumbing under the house or the service line between the meter and your home.

Public Meetings to Discuss Water System Replacement

You're invited to learn about how your Thurston County PUD (District) is ensuring you have reliable water service in the future.

In the last two years, the District has:

- Reviewed all water system infrastructure components and developed a prioritized plan for their replacement
- Compiled the costs of replacement and projected when these replacements must be made
- Interviewed consultants and hired a consultant (Leidos Engineering) to develop a cost of service rate study to determine options for how best to pay for these water system infrastructure improvements

To serve you, the PUD manages a water system of 164 wells, 54 miles of water mains, 130 pump houses, 62 booster stations, 520 pressure tanks plus the numerous service lines, isolation valves, blow-off assemblies, hydrant assemblies, reservoirs, treatment facilities and well and individual service meters.

The District's Board of Commissioners has reviewed the options and is considering a six-year strategy that makes the necessary system replacements and:

- Eliminates current surcharges for the Crescent Park, Terry Lane, Cornerstone Estates and Pederson Place water systems
- Standardizes rates within Thurston County
- Implements a special capital fund, funded by surcharges that will build a fund to replace infrastructure as it needs to be replaced
- Maintains the lowest possible rate increases to cover administrative costs and day-to-day operations and maintenance

Three public meetings have been scheduled in June and July to discuss infrastructure replacements and funding strategies. A presentation will be made and public input will be taken. The Commissioners hope to see as many of you as possible at the meetings listed below:

In Pierce County

June 11th, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

At the Elk Plain Grange
21817 Mountain Hwy E.
Spanaway, WA 98387

In Lewis County

June 25th, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

At the Veterans Memorial Museum
100 SW Veterans Way
Chehalis, WA 98532

In Thurston County

July 9th, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

At the Lydia Hawk Elementary School Gym
7600 5th Ave. SE
Lacey, WA 98503

