



Public Utility District No. 1
of Thurston County

October/November 2012 Newsletter



Commissioner's Corner

By Chris Stearns

Commissioner, District 3



Discussion – PUD's Water Use Efficiency Program

Water Use Efficiency is a State-mandated program under the Municipal Water Law. We are required to have water use efficiency goals on Group A water systems (systems with over 15 connections) and the goals have to be reviewed every six years. In 2009, we set a Goal for the Tanglewilde-Thompson Place waters system to "Reduce water use in Tanglewilde by 3% per connection through outreach to our customers." We are meeting that Goal. In 2010, we set goals for the rest of the Group A water systems and the Board of Commissioners adopted a Goal to "Conserve 3% per customer in summer demand on average". Thanks to our customer's help, we are also meeting that Goal. On the whole, Thurston PUD is way below national average water use, based on the federal Department of Environmental Protection Agency averages. The Board of Commissioners is pleased that we are meeting our goals and wishes to continue encouraging conservation. In 2013, the Board is considering a Pilot Program for toilet rebates for the Tanglewilde-Thompson Place water system, and a PUD system-wide shower head give away. We are also looking into providing aerators and leak detection tablets. In the 2013 Pilot Program, the Board hopes to budget for forty (40) \$50 rebates to Tanglewilde-Thompson Place residences when they purchase a high efficiency low flow toilet and a system-wide give-away of one hundred (100) low flow shower heads. If approved by the Board, these items would be provided on a first come, first serve basis effective February 1, 2013.

Thurston PUD has a very aggressive program to replace and repair leaky pipes, fire hydrants, valves, and customer hook-ups. This is the most effective conservation program we could have to reduce water production, treatment, and pumping requirements. The PUD's Commission adopted Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) has a Leak Detection and Repairs CIP line item funded annually at \$60,000. Between 2007 and 2012, the PUD spent over \$442,000 on water conservation leak detection, repair and replacement of leaky water accoutrements. The Board's CIP program has projected spending of \$110,000 for meter replacements in the next few years, and over \$12 million programmed in the next 15 years to replace water mains and other leaky infrastructure.

Thurston PUD Commissioners will provide you with Outdoor Faucet Covers to prevent freezing of your outdoor faucets this year. There is a limit of two (2) per service address, while supplies last. You can pick them up at our office during normal working hours. We also have them stocked in the vehicles. If you see a technician at your water system, just ask for them. (Limited to Thurston PUD owned system customers only.)



921 Lakeridge Way SW, Suite 301 • Olympia, Washington 98502-6035

(866) 357-8783 • Fax (360) 357-1172 • www.thurstonpud.org

Be Prepared Before Winter Sets In.

- Be aware that areas of your home, such as basements, crawl spaces, unheated rooms, and outside walls are most vulnerable to freezing.
- Search for pipes that are not insulated or that pass through unheated spaces such as crawl spaces, basements or garages. Wrap them with pipe insulation which is available for purchase at hardware stores.
- If you have heat tape installed on exposed pipes, check it to make sure it is still operational. Inspect the tape for cracks or fraying. Make sure it is installed according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Make sure the water to your outdoor faucets is shut-off and that lines are drained.
- To save wear and tear on your cooling system, drain any hoses and air conditioner pipes and check for excess water pooled in equipment.
- Turn-off and drain your irrigation systems.
- Temporarily, keep a steady drip of cold water running at an inside faucet when the temperature gets below freezing. This keeps water moving, making it less likely to freeze.

Featured Employee: Ron Funderburk

Ron Funderburk is the Field Operations Supervisor



at Thurston PUD. He has been with the PUD since April of 2011. Ron has worked in the water industry for 7 years. He is originally from Alabama and has lived in Washington since 2001. Ron is married and has 2 boys aged 7 & 11. In his spare time, he coaches football and is a big college football fan.



2013 Budget Update:

As noted in our August newsletter, the Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County held a series of Public Hearings in September and October to provide our customers and members of the public the opportunity to comment on the 2013 Proposed Budget and Rates. At the public meeting of November 13, 2012, the Commissioners will vote to adopt the 2013 Budget. The effect of the Proposed Budget is an increase to monthly rates of approximately 4.1% effective January 1, 2013. You can obtain a copy of the adopted 2013 Budget and 2013 Rates at our website at:

www.thurstonpud.org.



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