



Public Utility District No. 1
of Thurston County

FEBRUARY 2013 NEWSLETTER

Meet Your New PUD Commissioner



Thurston Public Utility District (PUD) Commissioners appointed Russell E. Olsen as the District 2 PUD Commissioner on February 12, 2013. Mr. Olsen will serve as the PUD Commissioner until the elections are certified in November 2014. Mr. Olsen is filling the PUD seat vacated by Alan M. Corwin at the end of December 2012.

As the District 2 Commissioner, Mr. Olsen will represent the area of the County that encompasses Lacey (borders are the same as County Commissioners), the Yelm area and the City of Rainer.

Mr. Olsen is the Unit Supervisor of the Voluntary Clean-up Program where he supervises 13 professional staff members for the Northwest Regional Office of Toxics Clean-up Program of the Washington State Department of Ecology. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Martin's University and a Masters of Public Administration degree from Seattle University. He also was a General Manager for the American Golf Corporation before his entry into public service. Mr. Olsen grew up in the Thompson Place neighborhood, outside of Lacey, attended Olympic View Elementary, graduated from North Thurston High School and has been married to Rebecca Olsen for 14 years. They have a seven year old son.

Mr. Olsen has extensive knowledge and experience in strategic planning, policy and budget development, implementation, and assessment. The PUD is confident that his excellent professional expertise and strong people skills will serve the citizens of Thurston County and the customers of the PUD well. Mr. Olsen may be contacted at rolsen@thurstonpud.org.

Employee Spotlight: Julie Parker

Julie Parker joined Thurston PUD in 2007 as our Chief Financial Officer. Julie has 23 years experience in utility finance which started at the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission in 1989 and continued after she left the WUTC to pursue a private accounting/consulting business.

Julie is married to Reggie, her husband of 22 years, and has 2 daughters. In her spare time she enjoys reading, gardening, cooking unusual dishes with her husband, and watching her children's sporting events.



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Did you know that you can access your Thurston PUD water account at our website? You can look at your bill, water usage, account information and more. You can also pay your bill online. Our website is:

www.thurstonpud.org

Please call the office if you have any questions or are having trouble accessing our website.

We're on the web
www.thurstonpud.org

Options for paying your water bill.

- Pay in our office using cash, check, debit or credit card. (Visa or Mastercard)
- Pay by phone or online at(www.thurstonpud.org) using your credit card, debit card or electronic check.
- Drop your payment off at the drop box located outside our building. Checks or money orders only.
- Pay by direct debit (get the form on our website at www.thurstonpud.org).



Commissioner's Corner

By Linda Oosterman, District 1

When reflecting upon being a newly elected PUD Commissioner, the first word that comes to mind is navigation. Winding my way through the laws that govern public officials and the specific ones written for Public Utility District (PUD) Commissioners requires attentive study. There are some differences within the commissioner world of PUD's such as it being a six year term of office and being a non-partisan position. Each PUD has its own way of relating to the staff and to the general manager. Last week, I attended the monthly Washington PUD Association (WPUDA) meeting and the second of four orientation days for newly elected commissioners. I appreciate the fact that each one of the new commissioners is given a mentor and that mentor is a commissioner from a different PUD other than our own. This broadens my perspective because each PUD has differences in the type of utility service(s) they provide. Their ways of relating to staff and managers varies as well.

I look forward to meeting with the consumers from my district as I learn about their particular water systems. There are first studies and hours of learning. A few examples are: water law legislation, municipal water laws, state laws that govern public utilities, our water systems infrastructure needs, funding sources, and learning to communicate with our other two Thurston PUD Commissioners on PUD matters in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

My deep appreciation and concern for clean and plentiful water is why I ran for this position. It is my way of serving my community. Now that the campaign is behind me and the real PUD work has begun, I can confirm my sense of rightness in serving the Thurston PUD No. 1 customers.

Commissioner Linda Oosterman