



Thurston PUD Newsletter

We are committed to providing safe, reliable, affordable, and sustainable water services to the customers we serve.

June 2019

Leadership Message

Be a Part of Thurston PUD's 2019 Conservation Projects

By John Weidenfeller, General Manager



The PUD would like to encourage customers to conserve water and save money. In May, we reached out to some of the District's highest water users to offer them a first peek and priority enrollment into two new programs we're offering that facilitate and support conservation. We also reached out to customers from water systems that are using more water than the approved water rights for their system set by the Washington State Department of Ecology. Each water system's water right varies.

As part of our continued commitment to conservation, we would like to offer all PUD customers the opportunity to learn more and enroll in these new programs.

On a limited basis, we are offering an irrigation assessment program. With this program and at no charge, PUD staff will come to your property and evaluate your irrigation system. If there are ways for you to save money and water, we can refer you to resources that may be able to help.

Authorized by the PUD Commissioners, the second conservation program we're launching is a pilot program for 170 advanced meters offered to customers on a first come, first serve basis. These meters cost about four times as much as the usual water meters that we purchase; normal meters cost about \$60.00. The advanced meters come with an app that allows you to check your water usage at any time from your cell phone, tablet or computer. To get a meter and the app, there is a non-refundable, one time charge of \$50.00 and a subscription fee of \$3.00 a month. You can customize your dashboard on the app to give you only the information you want, when you want it. The "smart" meter app can also be programmed to send a text or email that alerts you about possible leaks. A presentation is on our website at <http://www.thurstonpud.org/water-systems.htm> if you are interested in seeing more information on this meter.

Customers at the May meeting also were given information about drought resistant plants and vegetation from the WSU Thurston County Master Gardener Program website at <https://extension.wsu.edu/thurston/gardening/>. This website lists the contact as Cori Carlton, a Master Gardener & the Master Recycler Composter Program Manager. She can be reached at (360) 867-2162, or carlloc@co.thurston.wa.us.

If you are interested in a visit from PUD staff to evaluate your irrigation system, or in receiving an advanced meter, contact Operations Specialist II, Brian Wilson, at bwilson@thurstonpud.org, or call him at (360) 357-8783, or toll free at (866) 357-8783, extension 124.

Thurston PUD Commissioners

District 1

Linda Oosterman

District 2

Russell E. Olsen

District 3

Chris Stearns

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Do we have your most recent information?

We get it. Life is busy.

The Customer Service Team here at Thurston PUD asks that you update your contact information.

Your updated information can help us inform you if there is a water outage at your water system.

If you call to make a payment, take a minute to verify your information so we can better serve you.

Call, email, mail or fax us your latest information today.

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Do You Need a Backflow Prevention Device?

Irrigation systems. Hot tubs. Swimming pools. Fire sprinkler systems. These are a few examples of common cross-connections that require a backflow assembly device to be installed on customers' service lines to prevent contamination of a public water system.



A **cross-connection** is a physical connection between a drinking water pipe and any other non-potable item. As an example, let's say you use a hose to fill up a water trough for your farm animals, and you leave the hose submerged in the water as it fills. If you don't have a backflow prevention device connected and there is a water line break somewhere in your neighborhood. A back-siphonage or backflow event may occur and can drain the water out of that animal trough back into the public water supply.

The simplest way to prevent a backflow event is through an air gap, which is a physical space between the water outlets and pipe or end destination. For cross-connections that are more complex like an irrigation system, pool or hot tub, a **backflow assembly device** will need to be installed. A licensed plumber or backflow assembly tester can install one for you. These devices are required to be tested annually by a Department of Health licensed Backflow Assembly Tester (BAT).

Thurston PUD is required to have a Cross-Connection Control program, but customers are responsible for backflow assembly installation, initial and annual testing.

Over the next couple months we will be sending out a Cross-Connection Control survey to customers. This survey will help us assess potential cross-connections that may exist, and help prevent contamination of the public water supply. Check for it in your mail!

Commissioner Stearns Elected VP of WPUWA Water Committee

In April, the Washington Public Utility District Association held general elections that resulted in Thurston PUD Commissioner Chris Stearns securing the Vice President position of the Association's Water Committee. The Committee is comprised of commissioners and PUD staff from all water-providing PUDs. The Committee reviews federal, local and state policies that impact consumers' water services. They create and develop approaches to advocate for their constituents and customers at the legislative level. Commissioner Stearns will be leading the discussion and examining broader issues like infrastructure funding, regulatory issues, and litigious topics affecting water usage. Commissioner Stearns represents District 3 and currently serves as Secretary of the Thurston PUD Commission. Commissioner Stearns is our longest-serving Commissioner and fully supports conservation of water resources.



Warm Weather Reminder



Summer is around the corner and it is that time to start thinking about your water usage. Your bill reflects consumption from 30 days ago, so don't be surprised by your bill, make conservation a habit during mild months. GM Weidenfeller wrote of a couple ways the PUD can help you conserve, but there are other ways you can save water and save money.

Check out www.ThurstonPUD.org and click on the **Water Systems** link at the top of the page. From there click on the links below **Water Conservation** to find out more ways you can conserve water during the predicted hot summer.

To find out more information about our conservation programs, contact Brian Wilson at 360-357-8783, ext. 124.