

Spring 2025 Westside Water Newsletter

Annual meeting: Thursday May 22nd 7 pm at Havurah

Plan to come and join your Board and neighbors at this year's Annual Meeting for WWA. Come at 6 pm and bring a snack to share. But definitely come by 6:30 pm so that we can get everyone registered for the meeting that will start at 7 pm. The official notice for the meeting and the proxy form will be sent out on May 10th. If you can't attend in person, please fill out a proxy and send it in. One additional bit of learning from last year: if you are not feeling well, please stay home. We had a bit of a mini-pandemic last year after the meeting.

There is one open board seat for this year. If you are interested please contact Paul Huss to throw your hat in the ring (paulhuss22@gmail.com or (402) 659-8824).

New Tractor



Over the last few years, we have spent as much time maintaining our old tractor as using it on repairs. In March we purchased a new Kubota backhoe, and it is already paying big dividends. A leak reported by a member in Bethel Park was fixed in a few hours; a persistent leak at the Cove Road station was extinguished and the new fire hydrant at 153rd and Westside Highway was put in place. The Board has approved a credit for each member to receive two free hours of use of the new machine in fixing any service line leaks on

the customer's side of the meter.

Two hours covers most situations for Members and represents an investment in helping conserve water for ALL members when there is a leak on the Member's side of the meter. A brief reminder that WWA Members are responsible for all the other

cost of repairs on their side of the meter.

Source health

All our sources are in good fettle for the upcoming peak usage season of June through August. Paul recently rehabilitated some of the well point lines in the canyon and is planning a few more fixes. The recovery testing on all of our deeper wells shows that they are at normal levels. A plot of the monthly recovery level for the second Anderson well is shown in the graph below. We don't expect that the lower snowpack in the Northwest that has attracted some media attention will affect our water supply.



DSL (leak) update

Our overall system wide leak rate is about 5 gallons per minute (gpm); higher than our goal of about 3 gpm. We don't know of any major leaks in the system at the moment and thus we are assuming that our overall rate is the result of several smaller leaks. As always if anyone sees water in a ditch where it shouldn't be or hears a hiss in the brush, please let us know right away and we will investigate.

Lead/copper survey

In late 2024 we completed the EPA mandated Lead/Copper survey and reported no lead in our system. We are continuing to update the customer side of the lead service line inventory, so members are encouraged to reach out to us with any information they have. We are also due to perform a system wide sample of lead and copper again this year.

King County Right of Way Fee update

As you know we have been accruing money every billing period since King County originally informed us of their intention to tax our usage of the right of way along the roads in our service area (April 2018). At that time, we disputed their calculation of the length of right away that we were using with the Geographic Information Systems mapping we had done of our system. Recently the county has reached out again apparently accepting our reduced number and thus we have reduced the accrual you see on your bill. It is hard to estimate when this issue will finally be resolved although logically, we should have resolution at the time that our franchise is renewed by the end of 2025.

We're pleased to brag a bit about the degree to which Westside planned for this fee. It looks like we're the ONLY system on the Island that actually did the math and responsibly collected what was anticipated. This predictive planning approach significantly eases the one time "hit" that other systems will likely have to institute to pay the fee (the fee is back-dated to 2018). This approach to financial planning has been characteristic of Westside for many years and applies to the Capital Improvement Plan (both New and Replacement of existing system assets). We're proud and hope you, too, are pleased with our careful planning.

153rd Project update

We have completed the installation of an 8" main from 119th Ave down to Westside Highway along the private road known as 153rd Street. Much appreciation for the patience of our neighbors as we completed that project. We will be installing a fire flow compliant hydrant on the east side of Westside Highway in the coming days. Yet to come will be a road cut on the highway to tie this line into the main running down the west side of the highway. The final phase of this project will be to decommission the 3" steel line that runs through the Hille and Candy properties and installing new connections for each of those properties.

Cove Project completion

Later this summer we expect to complete the replacement of the main along Cove Road from 115th Ave to 121st Ave. Much of this work is done but two road bores are required and we will need to do another road cut at Cove and 121st to tie into the new system.

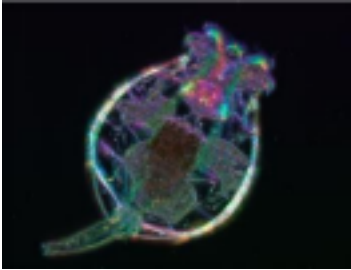
New meters program

The Board has decided to accelerate our pace of meter replacement. This work is done at the expense of the organization not the owners. The goal is to replace all old

meters over the next three years.

SO2 investigation

There is a spring in the canyon that used to be part of the system but was disallowed by the Department of Health a few years ago due to a (marginally) failed Microscopic Particulate Analysis (MPA) test. If you remember back to high school biology when the teacher would bring a made slides to look at creatures that look (at escaped from the set of a few of these in several standard is to allow a few In fact, it is fairly easy to the water and we are



bucket of pond water in and you under the microscope; those 100x) like they might have the movie Alien – we would have hundreds of gallons of water. The but we had just a few too many. remove these trespassers from looking into that possibility. The

spring is readily plumbed into our canyon collection system and with a flow of about 12 gallons per minute would be a welcome addition on those hot summer days when our members are watering their gardens. Stay tuned.

PFAS Monitoring

You probably have heard about the growing interest in PFAS (Poly fluoroalkyl substances) contaminating water systems. This acronym represents a class of many related chemicals who have very long lifetimes, can accumulate in human cells and are suspected to potentially cause health problems. The threshold for concern is parts per trillion and at that level testing is quite pricey (the threshold for Arsenic in water is parts per billion). In 2023 we did a test for PFAS and didn't find any trace. We will test again later this year. We have no reason to believe that our sources are exposed to these chemicals in any way.

New billing system

You may recall that we changed billing systems in 2020. So why would we do that again you might well ask? Because the company that we went with five years ago was acquired and the new company is migrating customers to their software package. So, the May bill will be the last you receive from the prior company's software.

Community Connection, New Neighbors? Serve on the Board?

Westside is a unique system in being privately "owned" by its members. Our community cohesion, the "social mycelium" that binds us together is dependent on us getting to know each other as we steward this water resource we hold in common. One way you can participate is to get to know your neighbors a bit.

Come to the Annual Meeting, join an *ad hoc* committee when one is needed, volunteer (writers welcome for future Newsletters!)

This is “Jeffersonian” democracy at its most local level → A community gathered to resolve a common problem: How to steward in a fair, just and environmentally responsible manner the water that keeps us alive.

We hope you will bring your questions and comments to the Annual meeting on May 22nd. Look forward to seeing you.

The Westside Water Association Board