

Board Byline

By Susan Keil, Board President

On January 18, I was appointed by the Board of Directors as Board President. Since then, I have continued to lead the Board through the process of reorganizing as a Joint Water & Sanitary Authority.

First, I want to start by saying thank you to everyone who attended or watched the Community Conversations in January. The Board values your feedback and questions. One of the most common questions has been, "What is the reason for doing this now as opposed to previously?" One of the biggest reasons to do this now is to stabilize our customer base. We just finished our Water System Master Plan, and we're in the middle of updating our Sewer System Master Plan. Those plans make certain assumptions about our service boundary and the number of customers we have. The time to ensure a stable customer base and revenue structure is at the front end of those plans. We've already made large capital investments and we will need to make more. Becoming an Authority will ensure that the benefit of those investments stay with the customers who funded them and will receive the benefits. The Board is confident this is the best way to create the stability we need for future planning.

The idea of forming an Authority has been floating around for several years. The Board actually considered it in 2017 when we went through the consolidation process. After we consolidated, it stayed on our minds. We also heard from community members that they still wanted us to pursue it. So, we started discussing it in more detail with customers and the broader community. The Board is committed to preserving the investments you have made into the District's current infrastructure.

So, what's next? Following the recent Community Conversations, Secretary/Vice President Ginny Van Loo and I presented an update to the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners during a Policy Session on February 16, 2022. The update topics included the District's completed and ongoing outreach and a request that official formation proceedings be initiated as set out in State statute. The Clackamas County Board of Commissioners has decided to

put that request on its agenda for its regular business meeting on March 10, 2022. At that meeting, the Board will consider and hopefully adopt a formal order to begin the formation process. The order would set the date for two public hearings hosted by Clackamas County, and when those dates are set, the District will mail and email that information to all customers.

If you have questions please contact Alexa Morris, Outreach & Communications Specialist, at (503) 353-4219 or by email at alexa@olwsd.org.

Community Participation

You're invited to attend District Board Meetings. At this time, Board meetings are being held online. The upcoming meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. on:

- March 15, April 19 & May 17

Learn how to call in at OakLodgeWaterServices.org or email info@olwsd.org for assistance.



Toilet Leak Detection

We've often heard that the hardest part is getting started, so we're making it easy (and free!) to get started saving water at home. It only takes 20 hands-off minutes to check your toilet for leaks in five easy steps:

1. Remove your toilet tank lid.
2. Drop one dye strip into the tank.
3. Put the lid back on and don't flush!
4. Wait 20 minutes.
5. Check your toilet bowl. If you see colored water, you have a leak. If not, you don't!

Wondering where you can get the dye strip we mentioned in step two? In March and April our partners at the Regional Water Providers Consortium will provide you with a FREE leak detection kit in English or Spanish. Get your free kit here: <https://bit.ly/FALW-promo>.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

Flushing medications means they can get into our water system which can impact fish, wildlife, and you. National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is on Saturday, April 30 and it's the perfect opportunity to safely dispose of medications and help keep them out of our waterways.

Take your used, unwanted, and/or expired prescription medicine from your cabinets to have them properly disposed of at the Public Training Center at 12700 SE 82nd Ave Clackamas, OR 97015 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 30.

This is a no-questions-asked opportunity for drugs to be properly turned in and safely destroyed via incineration. Illegal drugs will NOT be accepted.

Drugs allowed for this event include:

- Prescription drugs and over-the-counter drugs to include: tablets, capsules, medicinal creams, patches and vet meds.
- Vaping devices and cartridges may be turned in, provided lithium batteries are removed.
- Liquids (including intravenous solutions), syringes and other sharps.

For more information call (503) 785-5077 or email saramcc@clackamas.us.



In April 2021, our partners at the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office collected a total of nine boxes of medications, weighing approximately 270 lbs.

Backflow Testing Information

For the health and safety of your family and our community — test your backflow this spring. **Please note, not everyone has or needs a backflow device.** Some reasons why you may need a backflow device include irrigation systems, swimming pools, hot tubs, boiler systems, or being on a well.

The Oregon Health Authority and the District requires annual backflow testing to maintain clean and safe drinking water. For your convenience the District has a Backflow Prevention Assembly Testing Program, you now may choose to have the District take care of the testing and repair work of your backflow prevention assembly(s). The District has contracted with a certified backflow tester to automatically perform this test annually at a reduced cost.

Backflow devices protect your home's potable plumbing system by blocking pollutants from entering your drinking water. Pollutants from the outdoor system can include pet waste, pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. For more information visit the Backflow Testing webpage or contact Dave Seifert at dave@olwsd.org or call (503) 353-4230.

Storm drain Cleaning Assistance Program (SCAP)

The District coordinates this discount program to assist area businesses. Storm drains require regular cleaning to remove pollutants and prevent flooding. The discounted flat fee of \$50 covers removal of debris from standard parking lot drains. Registration is open March 1- April 30 at oaklodgewaterservices.org/SCAP.

Emergency Contact Information

Our team is available 24 hours a day at (503) 654-7765. If you see water gushing up out of either the street, ground, or from a manhole, please call us. Use the same number if you notice sewer spills or if you see someone illegally dumping into a storm drain.



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