

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Your PUD commissioners and directors have worked aggressively on the state and federal legislative fronts this spring to help ensure that the public utility ratepayers' interests are considered during the various rulemaking processes. We have participated in the Washington PUD Association's legislative efforts which include legislative receptions in Olympia, visits to legislators' offices, testimony and comments on bills, and a PUD Day on the Hill, celebrating 80 years since the PUD Bill first passed in our state in 1930. Just a few of the state issues that we've been monitoring and discussing are: the availability of Public Works loans and grants and other funding for water infrastructure projects, new compliance options for utilities that must comply with the Energy Independence Act, and extending the sales tax exemption for Bonneville Power Administration's conservation program.

Our general manager will also travel with the Northwest Public Power Association to Washington, D.C. during the American Public Power Association's Legislative Rally in April to speak with congress on federal issues that are impacting our business operations through federal oversight and regulations. Some of the big federal issues our associations are weighing in on include: regulation for cyber security, Endangered Species Act reform and EPA's proposal to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from power plants.

Participation in these industry associations affords a small utility like Mason PUD 1 a large voice on state and federal legislative issues and helps us fight to protect our customer/owners.

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** regularly meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. at the PUD 1 office in Potlatch. For more information on meetings, agendas and minutes, please visit [www.mason-pud1.org](http://www.mason-pud1.org).

## MASON COUNTY PUD 1 COMMISSIONERS:

### DISTRICT 1

Karl Denison .....(360) 898-2618

### DISTRICT 2

Ron Gold .....(360) 426-9540

### DISTRICT 3

Jack Janda .....(360) 877-5867

### GENERAL MANAGER

Steven Taylor .....(360) 877-5249

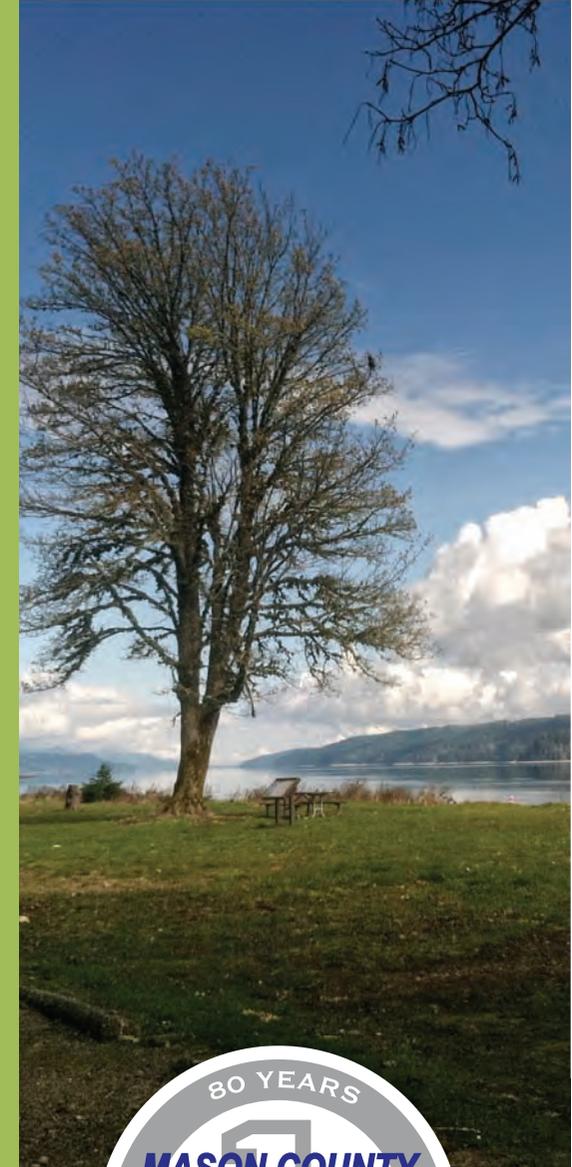
# PUD DAY

## ON THE HILL



Commissioners **Jack Janda** (left) and **Karl Denison** stop by the PUD 1 booth at the WPUDA PUD Day on the Hill at the State Capitol.

# THE CONNECTOR SPRING 2015



[www.mason-pud1.org](http://www.mason-pud1.org)

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## CROSS CONNECTIONS & YOUR WATER SUPPLY

Everyone wants safe drinking water. One way to protect the water the District supplies to you is to identify cross connections or potential cross connections. Cross connections are physical or potential physical connections that could allow liquid, solid or gas to flow into the District's distribution system if the distribution system loss pressure or if the pressure on the customer's side was greater than the distribution system pressure. Common potential residential cross connections include: irrigation systems, garden drip systems, swimming pools, hot tubs, decorative ponds, private wells, hose bibs, private booster pumps, and fire sprinklers. Cross connections can contaminate the water supply and make you and your neighbors ill and maybe even cause death.

### IT'S THE LAW.

Certain potential hazards (such as those listed above) require a backflow assembly to be installed on your service then it is required to be tested annually. Backflow assembly devices are installed on the customer's side of the meter and belong to the customer and/or property owner. It is the customer's responsibility (this includes financial responsibility) to have the device tested each year and repaired or replaced when it no longer functions. The District keeps a list of certified Backflow Assembly Testers or you may sign up for automatic annual testing with the District.

The District has been stepping up its efforts to enforce installation and testing of the assemblies. Cross Connection Control Specialists will be visually inspecting properties to determine which customers should be contacted about installation of a backflow device. The Cross Connection Control Program is designed to protect you, your neighbors, and your drinking water.

Jocelyne Gray, PE, Director of Operations - Water



Help us keep the water clean by reporting potential cross connections and having your property inspected.

## MANAGER'S REPORT

# CleanHydro Returns to Mason County with the True Story of Northwest Dams and Rivers

The latest chapter of a great Northwest story has just begun to unfold across Washington. This spring, a fresh round of CleanHydro advertising is telling the story of hydropower dams and the incredible power of the Northwest's Columbia and Snake rivers that benefit our daily lives.

CleanHydro is a public education effort that celebrates the multiple benefits of our dams and river system including irrigation for agriculture, flood control for cities, commerce made possible by navigable rivers and a robust port system, and finally, hydropower- the region's most affordable and reliable source of clean, renewable energy. Hydropower makes up more than 88% of Mason PUD 1's energy portfolio.

CleanHydro is coordinated by Northwest RiverPartners, an alliance that includes publicly and privately owned electric utilities, ports, farming organizations and businesses that advocates for a balanced approach to managing the federal hydropower system on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. Both of Mason County's PUDs are members

of Northwest RiverPartners and are proud to be supporting this effort, now in its third year.

While 75 percent of Northwest residents identify hydro as a clean, renewable source of energy over the past year we have seen an increase in the anti-dam movement by special interests groups. Northwest hydro and our river system are still not getting the credit they deserve. Hydropower has numerous benefits for both the environment and the economy. As ratepayers, 25 to 33 cents of every dollar in our power bill goes toward fish and wildlife habitat restoration and fish runs have been at record highs over the last several years.

Hydropower provides nearly 60 percent of our region's energy and 90 percent of our renewable energy. Hydro does not burn any fossil fuels, thus helping to keep our carbon footprint to about half that of other parts of the country. Hydro is also drawing new, energy-sensitive employers such as Google and BMW to the region, and continues to ensure that traditional industries

and small businesses thrive. Locally, the Mason County Economic Development Council touts low electricity rates as one of the attractive factors to encourage developers and businesses to locate in our county. Lower power rates help small and large business succeed. It helps stimulate economy and jobs. This is due to our access to preference power from our Northwest hydro system.

These factors demonstrate why it's so important for Mason County PUD No. 1 to be a part of CleanHydro again this year. I hope you'll join our conversation, look for the new CleanHydro spots on television and visit CleanHydro.com for more information regarding our federal dams and hydropower. These are important resources for us to protect as ratepayers and citizens.

Sincerely,



Steven Taylor,  
General Manager

## COMMISSIONER CORNER



February marked the 80th year of public service for Mason County PUD No. 1. While Homer T. Bone is often cited as the "father of public power", one very influential public power supporter in our state was Morrison F. Pixley.

Pixley was a land developer and the nephew of Frank M. Pixley, the celebrated founder of The Argonaut, one of the most influential publications in California in the late 1800s. After the great San Francisco earthquake in 1906, Pixley purchased land along Hood Canal from lumberman John McReavy, with the hopes of creating an artist colony called "Yacht Haven", what would later become Union City. In 1916, Pixley moved his family from California to their new estate just west of where Alderbrook Resort now sits, and became fast friends with another local artist named Orre Nobles.

In addition to his dedication to create his artist colony, Mr. Pixley also became very involved in local politics and improvements for the quality of life for Hood Canal residents. In 1934, he founded

the Hood Canal Telephone Company. This was two years after he began working relentlessly to create a public utility district for the Hood Canal. In fact, Pixley helped organize the deal that would allow PUD 1 to acquire the assets from the Hood Canal Mutual Company, which was managed at the time by his son Clark Morrison Pixley. When the acquisition was finalized, Clark Morrison Pixley became the PUD's first manager.

Mr. Pixley continued to have a voice in local happenings well into the mid-century. When he died in 1959, at the age of 94, the Shelton Journal noted, "Among the many men who have contributed to the development of Hood Canal, none played a more colorful role and few a more important part" than had Pixley.

This year we celebrate Morrison F. Pixley's vision and drive, along with the tradition of service and success during PUD 1's 80th anniversary. The District plans to hold an anniversary celebration with our customers and industry counterparts this fall in conjunction with our customer appreciation event and public power week celebration.

We will keep you informed of the upcoming celebration of our 80th anniversary as Washington State's first Public Utility District serving the owners/customers along the beautiful Hood Canal.



Jack Janda, Commissioner

Old transmission poles (right) are replaced by new taller and stronger poles and wires.

## ELECTRIC NEWS

A major transmission replacement project has been completed for the new t3ba'das Substation this spring. Magnum Power replaced the existing transmission lines from the T3 substation down to Highway 101 with taller poles and bigger wires. This project will help increase our power reliability. Additionally, if an outage occurs at the Union Substation, we should be able to pick up more customers on the new feeder lines that would normally be out until the Union area outage was repaired.

Upcoming projects include our third year of the summer vegetation management program and the PUD will send out letters to customers in the areas where we will be trimming, and also continuation of the Highway 106 line rebuild project.