

Jocelyne Gray, PE tapped as President- Elect for Washington Society of Professional Engineers

In April, Mason County PUD No. 1 director Jocelyne Gray was voted president-elect of the Washington Society of Professional Engineers (WSPE) by her association peers. Her term will run from July 1st of this year through June 30th 2016, when she will then become president of the state society. In addition to WSPE, she has also been very active in the Society of Women Engineers since 1996, encouraging young females to enter the profession.



"I am honored to be chosen by my fellow engineers who have entrusted me to help shape the future of WSPE and our engineering profession," stated Gray, "particularly as we work with the stakeholders and the legislature over the next several years to revise Chapter 18.43 RCW 'Engineers and Land Surveyors Act'."

Gray has been a member of WSPE since 2011. At PUD 1 she serves as the director of water and wastewater operations and is the District's in-house licensed civil engineer.

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.

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



Have you signed up for the Email Notification List yet? Be the first to know about scheduled outages and other important PUD information by emailing kristinm@mason-pud1.org to join.

THE
CONNECTOR
SUMMER 2015



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NEW WATER CONSERVATION POLICY IN EFFECT

Addresses ending in ODD numbers

1 3 5 7 9

Water on
ODD days of the month.

Addresses ending in EVEN numbers

0 2 4 6 8

Water on
EVEN days of the month.

In 2014, Mason PUD 1 adopted a residential outdoor water conservation policy to reduce peak demands during our hot, dry months. During the months of July, August, and September, the District encourages residential outdoor water usage to occur on an every other day basis. Odd numbered street addresses will water on odd numbered days of the month and even numbered street addresses will water on even numbered days of the month.

Outdoor watering includes: irrigation utilizing individual sprinklers from hoses or buried sprinkler systems for the purpose of water lawns, gardens, landscaped areas, trees, shrubs, and other plants; washing vehicles; spraying/washing of driveways and sidewalks; and filling of pools and hot tubs.

Mason County is included in the statewide declared drought. It is predicted that this summer will be warmer and drier than normal which may cause the water tables in the county to drop. Some of our water systems are served by wells less than 100 feet deep which are more sensitive to drought conditions than deeper wells. Reducing peak demand during hot weather will help keep water in the pipes.

Last August, the District had a water system that experienced complete pressure loss due to extremely high usage by a majority of the customers in a 4-6 hour period. The water system had to be placed on boil water advisory until we could get bacteriological samples back confirming the distribution system was still safe. **Don't end up on boil water this summer; help us reduce peak demand in our water systems!**

Conservation tips can be found on our website at in the Water Use Efficiency page. We will continue to work with state agencies to monitor the drought. The State Department of Ecology has a website dedicated to the drought: www.ecy.wa.gov/drought/index.html. If we notice a significant impact on any of our 35 water systems, we may have to implement stricter water conservation measures.

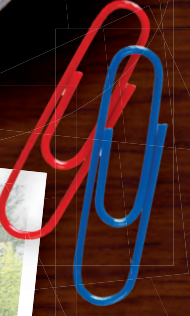
– **Jocelyne Gray, PE,**
Director of Operations - Water



Vegetation Management Begins This Summer

Starting in June, the District began their in-house vegetation management program again by hiring summer helpers to work with the line crew to trim trees and brush away from power lines. The areas that the in-house crew will focus on this summer include: Dosewallips Rd., Eagle Creek Rd., downtown Brinnon, Lazy C development, Indian Beach Estates, and Old Brinnon Shop Rd.

Later this year the District plans to contract out 14 miles of live line trimming along: Highway 106 east of Alderbrook, Dalby Rd., Schoolhouse Hill Rd., Duckabush Rd., Beemille Rd. and Hwy 101 Mt. Walker in order to help reduce outages. Customers who live adjacent to the trimming will receive a letter from the PUD notifying them of our presence and activities. Any questions can be directed to Darin Hall, Electric Superintendent at (360) 877-5249.



As the manager of Mason PUD 1, I am often busy with the high level aspect of leading our utility and don't always get the day-to-day interaction with our customer/owners like our office employees and crew members enjoy. I have to say that through our participation in recent community events, I am reminded of what makes our small utility so special- it's the people. Not just our customers, but our employees as well, many of whom also live in our District.

The Hood Canal Kiwanis club asked us to join them at their annual fundraiser in May to tout our 80 years of service alongside their association's

impressive 100 years of service. We were invited to participate in the parades for the Brinnon VFW and Shelton's Forest Festival and our employees did an outstanding job representing our PUD and our community. They put a lot of time into making sure our vehicles and float looked nice and that we projected a professional image and presence in our community. It's rare to work for an agency where the customers know the lineman and water techs by name and can tell the customer service reps apart by the sound of their voices when they answer the phone. We're very fortunate to have that relationship with all of you.

The overwhelming support of our customers reminds of why we do what we do. We work to serve you and in return, you support and encourage us. Thank you.



— Steve Taylor, GM

COMMISSIONER CORNER

Last month I attended the 75th Northwest Public Power Association's Annual Conference in Anchorage, Alaska. This year's conference theme was "Celebrating Our Past With An Eye on the Future." For me, the highlight of celebrating the past, was accepting the Public Service Policymaking Award for one of our own--Senator Tim Sheldon. I've known Tim for over 30 years. He believes in the public power model of non-profit cost based utility service and local control. I can't think of a more deserving policymaker for this distinguished award. He continually votes to protect our model in Olympia.

Now to the future. Speakers discussed all the rapid change that is occurring in the utility industry. From onerous state and federal regulations to recent developments in technology and customer demands--the message for utility policymakers was "change or die". One long time consultant summed it up by saying "the utility of the future will be the primary coordinator to meet the customers' energy needs by buying, installing and maintaining the grid infrastructure". In other words, utilities will make all the random power generation and demand work so customers will still have dependable power and utilities need to do a better job of educating our customers.

What does this mean for you the utility ratepayer? Unfortunately, the speakers didn't really address the costs associated with the change. Granted, most of the speakers were from California, where electricity prices are approaching 3x the cost of what we pay per kilowatt here. Government solar subsidies have created an oversupply of power during midday. This creates negative prices for power. Negative or low pricing also causes utilities to raise rates, in order to pay for the infrastructure needed to meet peak demands when variable resources aren't available (sundown, no wind). Variable resources can't replace capacity. They

are not dispatchable, thus utilities still have to maintain reliable generation such as coal, gas, hydro and nuclear plants. Ratepayers still pay for the cost of the dependable generation on top of the intermittent generation. As utilities sell less, ratepayers pay more per unit--economies of scale.

Luckily, California and other areas can be the test case for the unintended consequences of solar oversupply as our state is one of the worst places in the county sun-wise for solar. This could explain why our taxpayers pay the highest subsidy in the nation to the innovators who have installed solar on their rooftops.

I view my job as making sure your PUD is meeting your power needs in a professional, inexpensive manner while considering the long term viability of the utility. I also believe in keeping the customer informed. I hope this newsletter, our website and social media are meeting your expectations. I also believe in transparency. In order to sustain and continue to improve your service, we will need to increase our base rate charge by \$5 per month. Last fall, we hadn't planned on a rate increase for 2015, but a warm winter significantly reduced our kilowatt sales and revenue. Our energy efficiency program (LED lights, ductless heat pumps) is also reducing our sales and our part-time customers seem to be spending more time elsewhere further reducing our average customer usage. In a way, the part-time customer is being subsidized by the full time customer. That is why we and other utilities are putting more emphasis on the basic charge and less on the per kilowatt charge. As much as I hate to raise rates, my optional cable and cell phone bill is still more than my essential electrical service.



Thanks for listening and please let us know how we are doing.

Sincerely,

Karl Denison, Board President

EARN FIVE BUCKS BY GOING PAPERLESS!



Customers who sign up through e-pay by September 30th to receive their statements via email instead of in paper format will receive a \$5 credit on their October billing statement. You must stay paperless for one year to keep the credit to your account. Existing paperless customers will also receive the \$5 credit.

Go to www.mason-pud1.org and click "e-bill" to sign up today!