

**Water Committee Report**  
**Annual Membership meeting**  
**6 July, 2024**

**William James, Water Committee Chair, PSA Vice President**

During the last year, our well pumps pumped a total of about 10,825,000 gallons out of the ground.

We have had a several major incidents over the last year.

First, we had a water main explosion on E Mason Lake Dr E that happened at about 11pm between Christmas and New Year's Day. It took a couple of hours to get the failure isolated and water restored to most of the houses. The break was repaired the next morning.

Second, we have had 2 water meters that burst due to the freezing weather, and were replaced.

Third, we have had numerous leaks and high meter readings due to owners not shutting off their water when away for long periods.

Forth, we had a power problem with the electricity from the PUD that caused an unbalanced power condition that caused our generator to keep turning on and running for extended periods, causing us to consume almost 400 hundred gallons of fuel. Our electrician analyzed the situation and changed a couple of parameters on our transfer switch to keep it from turning on and switching to the generator. The fuel tank was refilled.

Fifth, we had a loss of water on the evening of Thursday 20 June. The normally running pump faulted, the backup pump failed to start, and the 10hp booster pump does not continuously run except during large loads. I investigated and commanded the 10hp pump to run. I was able to get the normally running pump to reset and after a few failed attempts, got it running normally, and our water was restored. Our electrician investigated the next morning and determined that the backup 5hp pump did not start because the power circuit had tripped. He reset the circuit and it was able to start and run the pump. He determined that the controller for our normally running pump is faulty, and may need replacement parts or a new controller. Our electrician is researching the equipment, and will contact me with a plan to resolve the controller issue.

It is each member's responsibility to use water wisely and monitor their usage. I urge all members to check for leaks, monitor their water usage/water meter, to turn off their water at the meter if they intend to leave for an extended period. Turning off your water will help prevent leaks and Thousands of dollars in water charges and repairs. We continue to have new leaks from members and tens of thousands of gallons wasted.

Our five 5 new CDs at \$110,000 each, are earning interest at 5.26%. This rate will net approximately \$28,930 by the end of 2024. The intent for these investments is to grow our water system reserve funds faster with the goal of reaching \$1 million.

The water committee recommended to, and the Board of Directors voted to increase the Water System Maintenance and Operations dues by \$5 per billing cycle. Many of you may have noticed this change on your bi-monthly bill. This increase was in response to the inflationary increases to our monthly operating costs. With the cost of management, maintenance, repairs, electricity, propane, etc., all increasing over the last few years we were at the verge of going into the red on our budget. This increase will give us breathing room for the next few years without the need to dip into our water system reserves. For 2022 the inflationary increase was 7.5%, 2023 was 8.6%, this year it is 3.6. This equates to more than a \$200 increase per \$1,000 in 2021 costs.

Well site landscaping was performed at the beginning of June. It is also schedule for later this year.

Of note, members can receive their water bill via email if this is more convenient than a paper bill. Contact NorthWest Water and they will collect your email address and note your account.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Submitted by William James.