

Water Committee Report
Annual Membership meeting

12 July, 2025

William James, Water Committee Chair, PSA Vice President

During the last year, our well pumps pumped a total of about 8,827,000 gallons out of the ground. That is approximately 2 million gallons less than 2024. Thank you to all our members that have fixed leaks in their water piping, conserved water, and shut their water off at the meter when away. We are doing well to conserve our own natural water resources.

Over the last year we have made some improvements to our hardware at the pump house. We have installed two new pump controllers, one for each 5hp pump. These pumps switch the primary pump role approximately every 24 hours, so 1 pump isn't running all the time causing excessive wear and tear. If there is a large demand for water and the primary pump can't meet demand, then the backup pump will start and help maintain the load. This has been working well and through runtime history I can tell that one pump maintains demand better than the other.

The plan over the next year is to evaluate replacing the pumps for larger capacity ones to hopefully better serve system demand.

We have had three water outage incidents over the last year. At the end of April there were two incidents where I believe we had a power spike/blip that caused a voltage fault on the water pump controllers and took them offline. I was notified via the monitoring system while I was at work at approximated 5:15 PM for the first one. I left work within 10 minutes to deal with it and along the way I was able to contact our electrician, and he was able to show up within 20 minutes and reset the controllers and get the pumps running prior to me arriving. We thoroughly checked out the system and discovered a DC Voltage Line Fault on both controllers, a fault with the generator block heater, and a generator failed to start condition. Both controllers were reset and the pumps restored water to the system, the breaker to the heater was reset, and we fully tested out the generator. The following night at about 1030 I was notified by the monitoring system of the same voltage fault, I was at the pump house within 5 minutes and was able to reset the controllers and inspect the system. No other problems were discovered. In May we had another DC Line Fault on both controllers. This occurred during the day while I was on the ocean fishing. I was notified by the monitoring system and was able to get someone to go to the pump house and reset both controllers and the system was restored. During these incidents the system

fell to about 20 PSI, normally set to 42 PSI. We have had no other faults since. I continue to monitor the system via the monitoring software daily.

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 rolled our 5 old CDs into new ones once they matured at the end of last year. Each CD is earning about \$380-\$390 per month. The intent for these investments is to grow our water system reserve funds faster with the goal of reaching \$1 million. This is also preventing the need to raise the water reserve rates that are charged every two months. Currently, every two months \$30 is charged for the water reserve account.

Well site landscaping was performed at the end 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.