WICKIUP WATER DISTRICT

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| A picture containing food, drawing  Description automatically generated  *Serving the Svensen Community since 1938*  We are committed to assuring the highest quality of drinking water is delivered to our customers, in a safe and efficient manner. Our goal is to plan, develop, maintain, and operate the district’s distribution system in a customer service oriented and cost-effective manner.  District Staff:  Michelle Bolton: District Manager  Dan Waterbury: Water Treatment and Distribution Supervisor  Matt Stunkard: Utility Worker 1 / Maintenance  Commissioners:  Ole Gifford  Gayle Leino  The Commissioners meet the second Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the district office. The public is encouraged and invited to attend.  Website:  <http://wickiupwater.specialdistrict.org>  Email:  [wickiupwaterdistrict@hotmail.com](mailto:wickiupwaterdistrict@hotmail.com)  Wickiup Water District  92648 Svensen Market Rd.  Astoria, Oregon 97103  (503) 458-6555 |
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*Your District. Your Water.*

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**BOARD NEWS**

Wickiup Water District is accepting applications to fill an open position on its Board of Commissioners. Our Board of Commissioners is comprised of five board members. Applicants for the vacant position must reside in the district, by at least 18-years of age, and be registered to vote.

The board ensures that the district achieves its mission in an ethical, transparent, accountable, and prudent manner. Together, the board makes decisions and sets policy for the district. Individually, a board member does not have any power, but acting with fellow board members an individual can have a positive impact on our community. The board’s major responsibility is setting policy.

Board members also do the following, all of which are accomplished at board meetings through review of information, strategic planning, conversation, and decision making:

* Attend the board meeting held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. (sometimes special meetings can be held to address specific issues)
* Review and adopt the annual budget
* Approve financial reports
* Set goals and evaluate progress towards those goals
* Help set standards, controls and policies that support sound risk management practices are in place
* Delegate authority
* Connect with the community

Wickiup Water District is a "special district" created and based on the laws passed by the State Legislature. Established on September 19, 1938, the Wickiup Water District continues to be committed to ensuring the best quality water is delivered to the homes, schools, and businesses in our community, in the most efficient and effective manner. We take great efforts to continue to improve the water treatment and distribution process while protecting our local water resources. Our constant goal is to provide safe and dependable drinking water to our community.

Interested candidates can request additional information, which will include an application, from the district office by contacting Michelle at (503) 458-6555 or by e-mail at [michelle@wickiupwaterdistrict.com](mailto:michelle@wickiupwaterdistrict.com). The deadline to submit an application is **August 31, 2021, at 3:00 p.m**.

**MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT**

All the automated meters have now been installed. It happened so fast we did not have time to get notice out to customers. This will allow the meter reader to simply drive down the road and the meters will be automatically radio read and the readings sent directly to our billing program. This gives us a more accurate reading and eliminates misreads. It also helps in detecting leaks much quicker.

**BILLING**

Water rates increased as of July 1, 2021. The residential base rate went from $42.50 to $43.75 for the first 6,000 gallons of water registered through the meter. Commercial rates increased from $45.50 to $46.75 for the first 8,000 gallons registered through the meter. Wickiup Water District is a “not for profit” governmental entity. All rates, fees and charges are set to recover costs of providing services and developing the system. There is no operating profit.

The $10.00 system development charge has not changed, except in name. It is now referred to as “Debt Reduction Surcharge”. Many of you have inquired about the charge.

In approximately 2007 and 2019 the district received loans from Business Oregon for system developments and improvements. A condition of one of those loans was that the district had to establish a debt service fund for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, general long-term debt, principal, and interest. Therefore, it is a special line item on your statement and not included in the base rate. Each month, those charges are accounted for and transferred into a special account for payment to Business Oregon in November. Every customer in the district pays $10.00 per meter. The Business Oregon loans have allowed us to continue to deliver quality water to our customers.

**CLATSOP ALERTS**

With the multiple line breaks on George Hill Rd. many of you have asked why you were not notified through Clatsop Alerts, even though you signed up. This program is relatively new to everyone. We are working with ClatsopALERTS to get training for the system. In the meantime, we try to keep our Facebook page up to date as well as our website. You can always call the office if you have questions.

# WATER CONSERVATION

As drought conditions continue throughout Oregon and our area, we are asking all customers to actively reduce water use and help conserve our limited supply. We rely on measurable rainfall to keep our reservoirs full throughout the year. With the lack of rain, we are asking everyone to do their part in conserving the limited water supply we have.

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**A FOUND FARWELL**

![A person holding a baby

Description automatically generated with medium confidence]()On July 6, 2021, Ron “Montana” Lake, our board president, and long-time board member passed away due to a traumatic brain injury. He was 68. Ron was an active member of our community, also ready to help. Prior to joining the board of commissioners, Ron was employed at Wickiup Water District for several years. With his sense of humor and gift of gab, he was able to strike up a conversation with just about anyone one or anything. All you had to do was mention elk hunting, current events, or cars (especially his Plymouth or Duster) and you better pour a cup of coffee and take a seat. His daily trips to Safeway for cat food and daily drive-bys the office to make sure we were working, will be missed.

Race on, my friend. No more red lights…it’s all green light from here.