

PUD Honors Years of Service

Past met present on June 10 as Grays Harbor PUD employees gathered at the Aberdeen Museum of History for the 2014 Employee Service Awards and Retiree Luncheon. The annual event, hosted by General Manager Dave Ward and Commissioner Arie Callaghan, is an opportunity for the District to recognize the employment anniversaries and remarkable careers of over two dozen men and women who have given years of service to the community through their work at the PUD. Those recognized this year were:

5 Years: Brian Cokeley, Alicia Cornwell, Lacey Ellingson, Robert Evans, Toni Fairchild, Christine Gaidrich, Gayle O'Conner, Marvin Peterson, Brad Shumate and Jessica Spatz

10 Years: Tina Callaghan, Todd Furth, Justin Mills, Doug Streeter and Andrew Wallin

15 Years: Tanya Collins, Gary Forster, Brenda Johnson, Alice King and Dennis Lisherness

20 Years: Shelly Walczak

25 Years: Carl Jonsson

30 Years: Norma Cosler, Clement Houle and Charlotte Pumphrey

35 Years: Phil Penttila and Robert Reime



The ceremony also provided the opportunity for current employees to recognize retired PUD employees and thank them for their years of service.

Top Row: John Thorsan, Joe Durham, Dan Dugas, Rick Lovely, John Hoder, Patty Ruecker, Don Swinhart, Corey Stamon, Norma Cosler, Phil Penttila, Sue Strunk

Front Row: Tom Seguin, John Weber, Gordon Cotey



Duct Sealing - A Solution to Wasted Heat

We can all agree that the crawl space of a home is not somewhere we want to be. They tend to be wet, moldy, and filled with rodents and spiders. So, can we all agree that contributing warm air to that space is not something we want to do?

In a typical manufactured home, there can be a significant amount of heat loss through duct work that has lost its seal over time. This means that warm air from your ducted furnace is leaking into your crawl space. Every time this happens you are losing money, and your furnace has to work harder and run longer in order for you to be comfortable in your home. Why would you pay for heat that keeps the critters under your house warm?

Well, there is something you can do about it. If your duct work were properly sealed, reaching the desired temperature would happen faster, reducing your furnaces' run-time and saving you cold hard cash! In addition to this, Grays Harbor PUD offers a rebate of \$400 to get the ducts in your mobile home sealed to PTCS standards. PTCS (Performance Tested Comfort Systems) is a certification program for residential heat pumps and duct systems sponsored by the Bonneville Power Administration. A PTCS certified technician will make minor repairs and seal your ducts to PTCS standard for (drum roll) \$400! Making this a FREE service. It takes roughly 3 to 4 hours (done while you watch TV), and you should notice a difference with a warmer home and lower winter bills. If your ducts require more work, you will still get \$400 off of the project cost. (NOTE: The rebate for a site-built home is \$500). You may have some out of pocket expense, but the project will pay for itself in a very short period of time.

Don't wait until the cold snap to take advantage of these duct sealing incentives. On October 1, 2014, the rebates for duct sealing will be drastically reduced. The rebate for manufactured/mobile home will be going down to \$200, and for a site-built home, \$250. So act now to get the most out of this program.

For details on this and other energy efficiency programs, contact Energy Services at 538-6383 or visit our website at www.ghpud.org.



Cold weather is coming, and as the temperatures drop, your heating costs go up. The good news is you have friends who are energy efficiency experts at your Grays Harbor PUD. Let us help you save.

If you live in all-electric home, your home heating system probably accounts for one-half to two-thirds of your total electricity consumption. Your PUD's experienced energy efficiency advisors are ready to help you save energy. Often a phone call will uncover opportunities to help you save energy. Where appropriate, a walk through energy audit can be performed to identify energy saving measures. Also, if you are thinking of investing in energy efficiency, your PUD offers rebates or low interest loans for weatherization, heating systems, appliances and even energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulbs!

Save Energy!



Give Energy Services a
call and save energy
now!

360-538-6383 or 800-562-7726 x6383
www.ghpud.org

Commission Meeting Dates

Meetings are held in the Nichols Building, 220 Myrtle Street, Hoquiam.

July 2014

Monday - July 7
Workshop 2:30 - 4:30
Monday - July 21

August 2014

Monday - August 4
Monday - August 18

Regular business meetings are scheduled to begin at 4:30 pm. A one hour workshop (3:30 to 4:30 pm) will precede each business meeting, unless otherwise noted. The public is welcome to attend all commission meetings, special meetings, workshops and public hearings. **Public comment periods are included at the open and close of every meeting.**

Commission meetings may be cancelled and special meetings may be scheduled. Please visit our website (www.ghpud.org) for updated information.

ON-LINE BILL PAYMENT

Want to pay your bill on-line? Now you can pay your bill instantly without ever leaving home. Just go to ghpud.org, click the "Pay Bill Online" button on the right hand side of the screen and follow the instructions. If you have any difficulties using the online service, please call Customer Service at 1-800-562-7726 or you may email customerservice@ghpud.org.



PUD Approves Harbor Paper Waste Water Demolition Contract

The Grays Harbor PUD has approved a contract which will allow for the demolition of the Harbor Paper waste water treatment facility at no cost to the District or its customers.

On June 10, the PUD approved a contract with Hero Demolition LLC for the demolition and removal of the buildings and equipment that make-up the facilities' wastewater treatment plant. The contract will allow Hero Demolition to take possession of and remove all salvageable materials in lieu of payment.

"I am thrilled that we were able to reach this agreement," said Commission President Russ Skolrood. "This contract will allow the PUD to continue to meet its obligation to clean this portion of the Harbor Paper site and to do it without absorbing costs which could impact our customers."

The demolition work will include the removal of all the wastewater treatment facilities buildings and structures, including the primary clarifier, three secondary clarifiers, solids pumping station building, secondary treatment pump house, and the aeration blower building. The company will also remove all mechanical equipment, piping, electrical, roofing, siding, and wood materials.

Under its agreement with Rayonier Properties, LLC, the PUD is obligated to clean and remove the facility's water treatment system and remove solid by-products including piles of bark/rock mixture, sand ash and boiler grate material. PUD staff is working to fulfill those responsibilities in a way that meets their obligations while having the least possible impact on the PUD's customers.

PUD Encourages System Ownership

If you notice a burst pipe or a leaky ceiling in your home, you wouldn't let it sit without attention would you? The longer you let damage go without repair, the more expensive and destructive it can become. The same can be said for the Grays Harbor PUD power system. Damaged poles, trees growing into power lines and out of control plant growth can start as a minor nuisance, but without attention can quickly become a costly and dangerous issue. If you notice trees that are growing into power lines, power poles that are beginning to look worn or damaged, or vegetation growing against transformers, your PUD wants and needs to know about them. Contact the PUD at 360 538 6524 or after hours at 360 532 4220 . The sooner we know, the quicker we can make repairs before it becomes a much larger problem.

PUD Continues Run of Clean Audits

An examination by the Washington State Auditor has produced a 14th consecutive clean audit for the Grays Harbor PUD.

In the Exit Conference held on June 23, representatives of the Washington State Auditors office reported that the "District's internal controls were adequate to safeguard public assets." The report also found that the District has complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures.

"This report is the result of the excellent work of every person who works for the Grays Harbor PUD," said Commission Board President Russ Skolrood. "Our customers expect and deserve a well run and responsible Public Utility District and this report is evidence that we continue to provide that to them."

The PUD is audited by the state annually. The 2014 examination covered Jan. 1, 2013 to Dec. 31, 2013 and examined the following areas:

- Open public meetings
- General revenue/expenses
- Key system controls
- On-call contracting
- Bond covenants
- Utility account adjustments
- Procurement
- General disbursements
- Discount program
- Payroll

The audit report also credited the PUD for its record of clean audit reports, saying "they reflect the District's commitment to maintain a strong financial system with sufficient internal controls."



Commissioners Corner “Just the Facts”

by Russ Skolrood, District Three



When I was a kid I used to watch the television series “Dragnet” with my parents all the time. I remember Sergeant Joe Friday’s favorite statement; “Just the facts ma’am” when it came time to investigate or get to the point in a case.

As I finish up the end of my six-year term I thought it was important to give you “Just the facts”. As we all know, it has been a difficult period of time, not just for the PUD but for everyone that lives in Grays Harbor. I know they like to call it the “Great Recession” but for areas like ours it felt much worse. Jobs were lost, homes were lost and in some cases hope was lost.

Your Grays Harbor PUD was not left alone during this difficult time. Our total revenue went from \$140 million in 2008 to \$114 million in 2013. We now expect to start rebounding and be at \$116 million at the end of 2014. BPA has raised power prices by 23% and transmission prices by 9%. The I-937 costs to the District have gone from \$3 million in 2008 to \$10.2 million in 2013. The income from the resale of surplus power has gone from \$63 million in 2008 down to \$19 million in 2013. Those are the facts.

The question is how have we coped with these huge budget impacts? The part that usually matters to most of us is what have we done with the rates. During this time period we have had to raise rates by almost 27%. If you are like me this should be a startling fact. But do not think that those decisions were made lightly. These rates are paid by myself, the other Commissioners, my family, my friends and my neighbors.

The logical question is what has the District done to try to keep the increases down. Our manpower has been reduced from 172 in 2008 to 151 in 2013. We have dropped our expense budget from \$140 million in 2008 down to \$110 million in 2013. We have used money from our reserves, taking it from over \$30 million in 2008 down to \$21 million 2013. Our capital budget has dropped from \$18.8 million in 2008 to \$7.3 million in 2013. Those are the facts.

What does the future hold? While the economy is turning around, it turns much slower on the Harbor than in other areas of the country. The Board of Commissioners and our new leadership team are committed to planning for a stable future for your Grays Harbor PUD. We are eliminating wasteful spending and making sure that our expenditures cover our needs and not our wants. Above all, we are working hard to make sure that our budgets are consistent and not tied to the ups and downs of the economy. We have to make sure that when the power market is good we build our financial reserves and pay down our debt. We are working to have a consistent capital budget and maintenance program that keeps the system running safely and efficiently for our customers. We are working to make sure that the capital budget is funded through revenue rather than borrowing new money. Those are the facts.

While I can say that your PUD is responsibly managing the finances it has control of, much of the financial future is tied to decisions made by the BPA. Costs will continue to go up and putting this ship on the right course is going to take hard work and even harder decisions. I believe that the team we have put together is going to make it happen and that the long-term future of Grays Harbor PUD is going to be bright. I will promise that your Commissioners and the employees of Grays Harbor PUD will continue to lose sleep trying to do what we believe is right for you, our customers and owners. On that fact, you can rest assured.



Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper. Please remember to recycle.

ENERGY, an informational newsletter, is published monthly for families and businesses energized by Grays Harbor PUD.

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