

Aberdeen City Council Recognizes PUD



Operations Director Steve Easton addresses the Aberdeen City Council.

A strong partnership between neighboring utilities is a benefit to the customers they serve. Last month, the citizens of Aberdeen were the beneficiaries of such a relationship. On December 20th, the City of Aberdeen Public Works Department and the Grays Harbor PUD came together to make repairs to the Fry Creek Pump Station, helping avoid potentially damaging flooding to homes and businesses in West Aberdeen caused by high tides and storm runoff. On

January 9, the Aberdeen City Council recognized the two entities for that cooperation and the impact it had on the community.

"The plan was carried out by public works and PUD crews on very short notice, requiring significant overtime and night work," said City Councilwoman and Public Works Committee Chair Dee Ann Shaw. "Their prompt and dedicated service made a huge difference."

"The PUD came together like no agency has ever done for us," said Aberdeen Public Works Director Rick Sangder. "They were fantastic and the new system actually works better than the old one."

"It benefits our customers and the community that we have a good relationship and work together," said PUD Operations Director Steve Easton. "People may not see it, but our crews are working together all the time."

PUD Programs Support Federal, Military Employees

Those who serve their country through military or federal service can get a helping hand from the Grays Harbor PUD. Federal employees impacted by a government shutdown can arrange a payment plan for monthly bills. National Guard and military reservists who are called to active duty and meet income qualifications can take advantage of an annual rate discount of up to \$350. Veteran support organizations can help provide information on the Veterans Relief Fund, which is available to assist with low-income veterans and their families with several needs, including utilities. For information on these and other programs, call PUD Customer Service at (360) 532 4220.

Commission Meeting Dates

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

February 2019

Monday - February 4

Tuesday - February 19

(rescheduled from February 18)

March 2019

Monday - March 4

Monday - March 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/Smart Hub" button on the bottom left 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.



Commissioners Corner

by Dave Timmons, District Two

Like many of you, I have seen my average monthly PUD bill increase as the days get colder. I'm pretty conservative with the thermostat (not by choice, my wife likes the house cool, even in the winter), but even with the thermostat on 68, my system has to use more power to get there. We have lived in our home for a long time and over the years, I have tried to make our home as energy efficient as possible. We actually have done everything we could think of over the last 20 plus years to reduce our power consumption and save money. I know our efforts has helped keep our bill from being higher, but it is still a little frustrating and I feel your pain, and I know my fellow Commissioners feel the same way.

The primary reason our bills go up is the cost to purchase electricity from BPA. No surprise there since almost every year we see an increase. Over the past several years we have taken a pretty conservative approach to budgeting, reducing costs wherever possible to keep our increases to you as small as possible. Unfortunately, there are things, besides BPA, we do not control. The one that comes to my mind almost immediately is I-937, the clean energy initiative. The PUD's cost to comply with this is between \$12 million and \$13 million per year. If hydro were recognized as a renewable resource, which we all realize it is, the PUD could use that money to do many positive things like putting some dollars into a rate stabilization fund to help absorb some or all of the cost increases we see from BPA. Maybe someday we'll see an effort to modify I-937 to recognize hydro as a renewable.



New NEEM Rebate Available



Beginning January 1, 2019, our Energy Services Department is offering a new rebate through The Northwest Energy-Efficient Manufactured Housing Program (NEEM). The \$1,400 rebate for NEEM 2.0 homes is in addition to the existing \$1,200 NEEM home rebate.

According to the Northwest Energy Works web-site, with over 30 years in existence and over 200,000 certified houses built, the NEEM program is the longest running residential energy efficiency program of its kind in the nation. NEEM manufactured homes feature things like LED lighting, ENERGY STAR kitchen appliances and a

smart thermostat, saving homeowners about \$370 per year.

Contact your Energy Services Department for more information, or visit NEEMHomes.com.

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

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