

Island Manager Report

August 13, 2011

Administration:

Volunteers: Thanks to Karl Schafer and Allen Moren for replacement of the yield sign at Ferry Road, to Deb Kraft for painting the mainland waiting shed, and to Saturday's ballot validators and ballot counters.

State Aquatic Lands: The State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be sending three staff members to review our use of aquatic lands (North Beach, ferry terminals) prior to renegotiating our lease with them. In prior years, we paid DNR more than \$1,000 annually; last year this fell to \$313. The amount budgeted for 2011-2012 is \$1,400. The original lease is dated 1985 and has been automatically extended since that time.

Derelicts and Nuisances: In a continuing effort to urge Members into compliance with Pierce County health and safety codes, four Members were notified by letter regarding accumulated trash or other nuisances on their properties, and asked to respond within 30 days. If they do not respond, then the property will be referred to Pierce County Responds for assessment and action. One Member immediately responded, positively, that he was working the problem. We have not yet heard from the others. In addition, at least two Members have filed their own complaints about problem properties, and initiated action by the Health Department or Public Works. And despite repeated phone calls to Horseshoe Lake Wrecking, the popup trailer remains! There are many properties with derelict vehicles and buildings, which Members can address by making their own complaints to the County, or ask at the office for assistance in finding the appropriate forms and contacts. PC Responds can be reached at (253) 798-INFO (4636), or through their website at <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/pc/abtus/ourorg/pwu/solidwaste/pcr/index.htm>.

Water System Project: The Water Project Committee (WPC) met Thursday, August 11, and the report will be made by Judy Greinke and IM. At the meeting, the Committee reviewed a series of "policy questions" regarding contractor access, work hours, and other project details. WPC recommendations on this worksheet are part of the Board packet. The Board may wish to approve these recommendations, with the proviso that, as negotiations occur with the eventual contractor, some of these details may change. WPC also continued to review a map of the island to identify service meter locations.

The Committee also decided it would be important to investigate the use of a "robocall" system being set up by NWS as the most efficient means of communication with Members during the project, and to prepare a letter to all Members with important information about the project. The IM will prepare a draft letter for review by the Committee.

USDA Visit: Due to the complications surrounding the federal budget earlier this year, this visit has been delayed until September, date yet unknown.

Additional Requirements. The WPC and Northwest Water continue to work on additional requirements for the system replacement. These include obtaining proof of title to all the HMC roadways, drafting and signing an "Owner's Letter to Engineer" containing instructions for management of the project; reviewing a series of policy issues surrounding construction, developing plans to communicate with Members during the project, and other aspects.

Communications with Members: Of our 395 assessable units, we have about 120 Member names on the HMC email list. If you are not on this list, we may not be able to timely notify you about service outages

or other events during construction. Please let Carolyn Snyder in the HMC Office know, by email or in writing, that you wish to be added to this list, which will be used for business purposes only. Members with questions about location of their service meters or hookups for contiguous lots should continue to contact the office, so that last minute changes can be avoided during construction.

Property Boundaries. Members are encouraged to know the exact location of their property boundaries. When reviewing your property boundaries, remember that Pen Light power poles are in the HMC right of way, as are most water valves. These can be useful guides. Unresolved boundary line issues could hold up our water project and result in higher overall costs. If you have questions, please contact the HMC Office.

Water Utility: The IRS is going to require that the HMC Water Utility be established as a separate entity, with its own Articles of Incorporation, with specific instructions under the tax code. We will work with the island attorney to draft a simple set of Articles for approval by the Membership/owners of the water system. The cost of drafting and executing these Articles will be paid from the USDA project budget.

Water System Maintenance and Operation: Washington Water will be conducting routine lead and copper monitoring on the water system. This testing occurs every three years, and collection sites must meet EPA criteria. On Monday, August 15th, Washington Water will send letters to five Members selected because they are permanent residents and live in homes built during the period 1980-89. These Members will be asked to collect a water sample on Tuesday, August 23rd, and deliver the sample to the office by 2:00 p.m. that day. The IM will take the samples in to Washington Water office for testing.

Fire Department Liaison

On Friday, August 5, the fire department responded to a call about a contained recreational fire on private property. There was no burn ban in effect at this time. The fire department responded at 9 p.m., and a return round trip was necessary for the ferry crew to take them back to the mainland. Although the fire department noted that the fire included some building material (not allowed), the situation might have been simply resolved between neighbors, without the expenditure of HMC resources or compelling the fire department to make a lengthy trip from the mainland.

Pierce County has imposed a burn ban on outdoor fires from August 8th to September 30th. This ban applies to all outdoor burning except small recreational fires in established fire pits in campgrounds or private property, with the owner's permission. Under Island Rules, Section F., the Board has the authority to "declare a stricter burn ban than the county, given the special conditions and inaccessibility of the island." Does the Board wish to impose a stricter burn ban until September 30th?

Land Use: No Committee Report.

Emergency Preparedness: We are looking for Members who would volunteer to chair this committee.

Legal Liaison: Current delinquencies include Alonso, Barrett-Laine, Dwyer, McNally, O'Neill and TGC Development, one less than last month. One is currently with the island attorneys for legal action, one owes less than \$100, and the remaining three will be sent to collections if they fail to pay by month end. The current delinquency rate is 1.5%.

Parks: Committee Report:

Parks encourages Members to promote better communication with Membership. The committee looks forward to hearing from you. The new email address for the Parks Committee is: hmcparcs@herronisland.org.

North Beach Marina: No further report; permits still in processing. We are on target for construction in January 2012.

Roads: If you wish to be a volunteer driver of the truck, please contact the office. You will need to be added to the list of authorized drivers in order to be covered by HMC insurance.

Rules: One rules complaint remains open. The Board should confirm the members of the Rules Committee for this final hearing. They are Max Hochanadel, Eric Bergson, and Kathy Deuster.

Merry Kogut has resigned from the Rules Committee after some 7 – 10 years, effective June 30th. She has agreed to train a new person as secretary, up to July 31st, and will prepare one last draft of proposed revised rules to submit to the Board for review.

Transportation: An independent film crew will be filming a few shots on the Herron Island Ferry on Thursday, September 1 during the afternoon. This should not interfere with weekend traffic, but the film crew will be occupying some space in the parking lot. HMC will be reimbursed for the cost of any extra ferry crew time by the production company.

Technology: Fred Fath continues to work on an iPod application that may help satisfy our electronic ticketing needs. Board members have been reviewing the ferry pass system for additional options that might improve the processing of ferry fares.