

Island Manager Report
May 11, 2013

Administration:

Volunteers:

Roads Committee again, for their work in removing debris, fixing potholes, developing plans to make lasting improvements in our roads. Dana Gruber for her hard work along Ferry Road, doing erosion control. Water Committee, for all their hard work in implementing the new system, developing rules and procedures that will improve recordkeeping and service to Members. And to the Finance Committee, for seemingly endless hours scrutinizing expenditures and revenues to develop a tight budget that still addresses short and long term island needs. Every hour volunteered helps keep assessment increases to a minimum.

Island History: A small group of longtime islanders met with authors Ann Irish and Jean Findlay, who are researching and writing a book on islands in the South Sound. Those who attended provided an astonishing array of documents and history. We look forward to publication of the book and its Herron Island chapter.

Reserve Study: The reserve study was received in mid April, as promised, and is with the Board for review prior to dissemination to the Members. Reserve studies are advisory, and do not require funding at any specified level.

Tansy Removal: Time to remove tansy ragwort from private and HMC properties. We have a volunteer to remove tansy from HMC roadways, but may still need someone to remove tansy from HMC-owned properties. Let the office know if you are willing to volunteer to take this walk!

Water System Maintenance and Operations: We continue to resolve service problems where the construction crew faced connection mysteries, at the rate of perhaps one each week, and expect demand to pick up for a short term as Members return for summer weekends and vacations.

The Water Committee has been reviewing the maintenance contract situation, and has proposals from Northwest Water Systems and Washington Water, our current contractor. The Committee will make recommendations regarding what level of service we should contract for, vs. what can be provided in-house, and how to do that.

No offers have been received for the plumbing parts we are ready to surplus. If any Members are interested in making an offer, they should contact the office. If not sold to Members, eventually the parts will be sold as scrap.

Water System Project: A few items remain to be resolved, the chief one being scheduling of the grading of the roads. We are continuing to work with Casco to schedule this work, and coordinate it with the ordering of gravel for island roads. All contract paperwork has been completed, including the federal A-133 audit.

Fire Department Liaison: Nothing to report.

Land Use: We are working through the sale of two of the HMC lots, and hope to have this completed soon.

Emergency Preparedness:

Parks: In late April the children's playground was vandalized, and one swing set was broken beyond repair. Research on a replacement revealed that the total cost of replacement probably falls within our property

coverage deductible, and so no insurance claim was made. Funds will have to come from the Parks budget or reserve account. (One Member offered a donation to help replace the swings, which would also be entirely welcome.)

A Member reported that piling stubs were visible at the small boat dock at low tide, and asked whether these shouldn't have been removed when the pilings were replaced. We have posed the question to the project engineer, but need to have photo documentation to send along. Photos can be taken Saturday, May 11, at low tide to document the piling stubs.

Roads: Committee Report.

Rules: Board report. The Board met informally to discuss Member comments on the proposed Rules and will produce the final draft incorporating pertinent comments.

We have received a Rules complaint regarding speeding on the island. This is a good time to remind Members and guests that the speed limit everywhere on the island is the same – 15 mph.

Herron Island Ferry: John Farris has arranged for the ferry to go into the Tacoma shipyard September 16 for engine replacement. The work may take 2-3 weeks. The Coast Guard must approve the repowering of the boat and we are awaiting final word from them.

HMC has contracted with Sargent Engineers to evaluate the possibility of replacing timber decking on the ramps with steel. When the ramps are painted in the future, the timbers will need to be removed and reinstalled. In addition, they wear unevenly. It may be more cost effective in the long term to use steel.

Legal Liaison: We currently have 13 delinquencies, of which 7 are with the attorney for action. Delinquency rate of 3.3%. Last year at this time it was 2.5%.