

## Water Project Update, Week of October 30, 2012

### From the Project Engineer:

On or about Monday the contractor will begin installing water meters. This has been delayed by a week, because the contractor was unable to achieve sufficient flushing to remove the impurities from the water lines. The contractor has been instructed to flush the lines again with higher flow rates and will resample the water quality mid week. The contractor believes that they will be able to complete the meter install project by the week after Thanksgiving. Gravel has been delivered and final pressure tests of the last line are under way, after which final clean up will begin.



By next week preliminary road repair will be well under way and water main certification will be complete. From that point on we're heading toward the finish line quickly. The contractor has done a significant amount of culvert cleaning, however there were a great many culverts (more than anticipated) that were either buried or completely obscured, and construction has not helped them. We are working to come up with a solution to this. One example is that we had reports over the weekend of a leaking hydrant, and that in fact turned out to be a recently exposed culvert rather than a leak.

Thank you all for your patience, and keep an eye on your email for updates regarding the location of service installation. We will do our best to keep you apprised, but the weather is making predicting progress a real challenge.

Jester Purttleman, Project Engineer

### From the Island Manager:

The roads are passable and in some areas better than passable. Trenches across the HMC roads are settling with all the rain that has fallen and supplied an ample number of "speed bumps" to slow traffic. The contractor has brought over several loads of gravel and will be improving the roads, filling trenches and compacting the fill. Please exercise caution in driving so that you avoid water valves in the roadway (more protection will be provided to these prior to the end of the project), and also avoid soft spots.

You will see some minor work going on all over the island, as the contractor picks up some details on placement of hydrants, blowoff valves, and replaces a culvert on East Herron.

If you have questions or concerns, please let me know at [hmcmanager@herronisland.org](mailto:hmcmanager@herronisland.org).



Thank you.

Claudia Ellsworth, Island Manager

## Engineer's Project Update for Week of October 25, 2012

The generator has been switched over and was tested with the new pumping system, which worked flawlessly. One of the big reasons to stay with that generator is that it has enough reserve capacity to handle all the new pumping capacity without trouble. A similar size replacement generator would have been pretty pricey. As to whether you need additional diesel, I would say probably not unless you have had shortages in the past. If it's been a concern historically, it might well be a good idea, we can talk about that tomorrow morning.

As for the update, sorry about the lag, I have been poorly balancing a lot of issues the last couple days. My update is pretty short, and is as follows:

The system is being flushed and sampled this week on Wednesday. We should have sample results back by early Monday allowing the contractor to officially begin the switchover. A number of people have been concerned as to how they will know when they are on the new system. The answer is really that when you see a meter box in front of your property and the hole around the exposed end pieces have been filled in, you're on the new system. On Monday the contractor will get started and will pick a couple points to begin work. I will be sending email to Washington Water Service letting them know which services are on the new system and which are on the old system on a daily basis, and I will include Claudia in that email. She can then use an email to everyone every day or two to inform you as to when construction is moving through your area.

The contractor anticipates being done by the 16<sup>th</sup> of November, and is hopeful that they may be a week earlier than that. In that time, (1) all the services will be installed, (2) concrete aprons will be installed on each valve box (so that the road can be graded safely), and (3) the roads will get a final grading and compaction with gravel being added wherever surfaces are too soft to support vehicle traffic. Unfortunately this is well into the wet season (as you probably have noticed!) and the contractor will have some work to do on this front. We'll be doing regular compaction tests on the driving surface during this work to ensure that your roads have been returned to their original condition.

From: "Claudia Ellsworth" <islandmgr1958@gmail.com>  
To: "undisclosed-recipients:"  
Subject: Engineer's Update from Jester Purttteman  
Date: Monday, October 15, 2012 6:12 PM

*Three months of nice weather helped us to forget (or block out, or be apprehensive about) the muddy mess that was waiting when the weather turned the faucet back on. Now that it has, we've had a number of culverts that were plugged and soft spots in roads expose themselves. The contractor had a crew clearing drainage out today and will continue touchup until we get storm water moving properly on the island over the next two days. The crew has also repacked and graveled a couple bad spots to keep the roads passable. At this time, the objective is not to clean up the roads or fix all the problems, the objective is to keep the road ways functional until they complete their work. Once they have all the services in, they will be returning to do a finishing grade of the roads. After that, life will be better, but for the ensuing couple weeks, it's going to be muddy.*

*Keep your eyes on the road, keep your wheels off the shoulders, and be weary of dips. It is pretty challenging out there, I was able to navigate the island in my car, but it wasn't something I'd do for fun. The things to remember are (1) don't drive around if you don't have to, (2) when you do drive, keep you're your speed down to keep damage to the roads to a minimum and control to a maximum, and (3) avoid the shoulders and places where waterline was installed this summer, because that ground will be soft.*

*There's not much that can be done about this yet, if the contractor were to stop now and try to rebuild the roads they'd never be able to keep ahead of both the roads and the meter installs. So, instead they're going to try to fix the cause of the problem (standing water), fix the spots that are not passable (those places that just go away when you drive over them) and charge on to completion. For what little comfort it provides in the middle of this, the contractor will be fixing the roads at the end, they just can't do that and keep installing components at the same time. Your patience is very much needed and appreciated for the next couple weeks, thank you!*

From the Island Manager:

The Roads Committee, headed by Jack Wells, has also been out working today attempting to help with a few bad trouble spots. There will be more rain in the next few days, so if you can avoid driving, please do so. HMC is planning to have gravel on hand this winter and also purchasing some quick response erosion control items.

Clearing drainage ditches and culverts is the responsibility of the property owner. If your driveway culvert is plugged, please do what you can to improve drainage, clean out the culvert and ditch and allow the water to flow downhill. Thanks.

From: "Claudia Ellsworth" <islandmgr1958@gmail.com>  
To: "undisclosed-recipients:"  
Subject: Engineer's Update  
Date: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 12:21 PM

Here is the update from Monday, October 8, from Jester Purttleman, as we enter the last few weeks of the water project.

After the ferry's return, the construction crew is back up and running on the island. They have about 38 service laterals left to lay down before service meters start going in. We will be conducting final pressure tests and purity samples this week and then services will switch. It's the last deep breath before the sprint to the finish now, and by Friday a lucky few of you will be running from taps on the new side of the system. We expect to start at the north of the island and work clockwise around, and \*there will be service disruption for each home as the line is transferred\*. We do not expect it to take long, they have to dig up your valve, cut the line, attach a coupling, and plug you in and you're on your way. Expect an hour or two at the high end, and we are guessing that most people will never even notice the water was off.

\*When the meter box shows up, you should have water\*. If you do not, something went wrong, there could be a couple homes whose connection to the system is different than it looks from above ground. Inspectors and the contractor will try to check that you have water from an outdoor hosebib or spigot, but that isn't fool proof either\*, so make sure you check that you have water if you can make it to the island between October 22nd and November 19th\*. Better to know something is not right BEFORE the contractor is signed off if possible.

If you have questions, please get them answered soon, we're trying to get this to wrap up!

Jester Purttleman

Please contact Claudia Ellsworth at [hmcmanager@herronisland.org](mailto:hmcmanager@herronisland.org) immediately if you have questions or concerns. Let's tackle the details now....

Thank you.

## Lower Water Pressure to Entire Island....

Mon 10/8/2012 4:55 PM

From: [Claudia Ellsworth](#)

Cc: [swennings@massanaconstruction.com](mailto:swennings@massanaconstruction.com), [jester@nwwatersystems.com](mailto:jester@nwwatersystems.com), [Carolyn Snyder](#)

Bcc: [kenfreeman@kencam.net](mailto:kenfreeman@kencam.net)



And also, this information from Charles Smith, Herron Island Resident Inspector

Also, we were reminded today by Massana Construction that there will be work being done in the pump house tomorrow. The work will require the power to be off in the pump house from 8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon on 09 October 2012. Because the power will be off, well Pumps 1 and 2 and Booster Pumps 1 and 2 will not be operational during this time. The existing water system will be operating off of the reservoir and there will be lower water pressure during this time.

The Contractor will work as quickly as possible to minimize this outage. Your patience is appreciated.

## Power Outage next Monday may affect you

Mon 10/8/2012 4:28 PM

From: [Claudia Ellsworth](#)

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Bcc: [kenfreeman@kencam.net](mailto:kenfreeman@kencam.net)



A large Douglas fir is blocking the installation of service laterals on West Herron Blvd (North Beach Road). On Monday, October 15, the road will be blocked for most of the day while the tree is removed. These are the last laterals in water system replacement.

In order to remove the tree, PenLight will be coming over on the 9 a.m. ferry to drop the power line and allow Tree Resource to take down the tree.

At this time, we can't tell how many homes will lose power, but it's a good bet that much of the North End of the island will be affected.

The large trunk sections of the tree will be left for use at Goodpastor Park; however, tree scavengers (no slight intended) are welcome to come up Monday evening to remove any fireplace size pieces.

Please plan to detour if you need to leave the north end of the island, and expect your power to be affected.

Thank you.