

Island Manager Report
August 9, 2014

Administration:

Volunteers: Terrill Chilson, who for many years has cochaired the Parks Committee with Tracy Anspach, has resigned her position. Terrill has earned the gratitude of all Herron Islanders for her hard work, organizational skills, and dedication to improving and maintaining the quality of HI parks.

Don Kelly deserves a round of applause for his near daily driving of the dust control truck and keeping the dust to a minimum this summer. Thanks to our other drivers, as well, all of whom have served a long time and are happy to see a new driver.

Joseph Pentheroudakis and Steve Ohlsen – thanks for removing the graffiti paint from our South Beach signs that were recently defaced.

And much appreciation to all those who helped on the Roads party, clearing unwanted vegetation from the roadways, and cleaning the ditches. All efforts that will pay off when the rains come again.

Tansy Ragwort: The word is that Pierce County Noxious Weed Control commented that the Herron Island roads had never looked so good. Thanks again to Pat Zazzo and Leslie Sanderson, who probably worked the hardest on eradicating tansy. We know of two members whose properties had to be cleared by the County, at considerable expense.

Community Building: Apparently, we have some bugs in the attic, and so have called for help. They haven't eaten any records, but we need to put a stop to them. Also, we are looking for a company to help with the caulking and painting of the Community Building.

Tree Trimming: HMC tree trimming is over for this year, as the budget is fully expended. Additional trees will be removed in October, when the new budget year begins. We are working from a list compiled volunteer members, and will address the highest priority first. Priority is determined by the danger the trees present to persons, property or HMC operations. No word from Pen Light as to when they will come to the island.

Water Operations: We still have a “phantom” who is turning on water meters. Advice to Members – put a lock on your meter if you are going away for a long period, to prevent the kind of water loss we experienced last month.

Northwest Water Systems has requested a customer/contractor meeting to discuss NWS performance, any contract changes we might want, or other issues. We have asked for this meeting Friday, September 5th, in the hope that Board members and the Water Committee will be able to attend.

Cross Connection Control Program: Finally, real progress on this WAC requirement. All Members have submitted the survey documents, and August 13 will be the date that Budget Backflows comes to the island to conduct inspections of six backflow devices. Judy Greinke organized this group inspection program, in order to reduce the cost to each member, as the contractor will make only one trip to the island.

Work continues at the pump station to create a parking area for equipment, as discussed in last month's manager's report. Discussion also includes use of the old reservoir as a covered storage area.

Water Committee Report: The Committee met August 7th to discuss data gathering for rate setting, pump station improvements and other issues. Judy Greinke, Sue Pottorff, Kathy Deuster, Fred Fath, Janet Podell, and Charles Smith were in attendance.

Water System: Charles Smith will report.

Fire Department Liaison: The fire department informs us that the packets will now be distributed September 1, so we will collect packets and notify the volunteers.

Land Use: Committee Report.

We have heard nothing further from Pierce County, but receive weekly updates on the Comprehensive Plan process.

Another condemned property is being demolished, but there is no word on the status of others.

Emergency Preparedness: Committee Report.

Parks: Committee Report:

Tracy Anspach reports that Friday, October 3 or Saturday, October 4th would be good dates for dock removal, and that the rental of a lift will be needed.

The BOOSTERS have selected a swing set and are seeking permission to install it at a work party this fall. That work party would also install fencing around the sport court, as planned and approved last year. Additional work party items include benches, small boat dock and swim float.

Watch the website for future dates. If you have questions or input please email: hmcparcs@herronisland.org .

Roads: Committee Report.

Rules: No outstanding complaints.

Herron Island Ferry:

The ferry is scheduled to leave for the Tacoma shipyard on Monday, September 15, following the morning run, so that trash removal can be completed for residents. Please plan for the ferry to be out of service for two weeks, returning at the end of the month. During this trip, the ferry will receive its biennial “out of water” Coast Guard inspection.

Tom Stevens, a local resident, is now a standby deckhand, and has been working this past week. A third standby, Jerry Libstaff, also a local resident, is in training as a deck hand.

Ramp Painting:

No activity this month. We should be receiving information regarding permitting on or about August 15th.

Cable Replacement: American Construction will replace the ferry ramp cables August 19, 20 and 21, necessitating a cancellation of the 12 and 12:30 ferry runs each day. This is the first time the cables have been replaced since 2007. The work will cost approximately \$25,000.

Legal Liaison: We currently have 15 delinquencies, of which 6 are with the attorney for action. Delinquency rate of 3.9%. Last year at this time we had 20 delinquencies with 7 at collections. Currently, HMC has 386 Assessable Units and 397 Water customers.