

Island Manager Report November 13, 2010

Administration:

Island Security:

Mark Anderson and I met with Pierce County Public Works on October 20 to discuss the ongoing survey work. Since then, we have received a new, complete survey of the mainland side properties, including Pierce County right of way, which should help in planning parking lot security improvements.

Mainland Mooring Lines: We've been informed by Pierce County (based on a complaint) that we (HMC) need to produce permits for the mooring line(s) on our mainland property. We also need to have photographs from members, if available, that can prove how long the lines have been in place, preferably 1971 or earlier. No one has requested that the lines be removed immediately; however, we need to prove that we are in compliance or come into compliance with shoreline and County regulations. These lines are privately member owned and on HMC property. It may be that only one line is allowed per parcel. Has HMC given permission previously for the placement of lines on the mainland property? If a permit is required, the question arises as to who benefits, who pays and who has access. At this point, I propose we collect all the information available and then review HMC's options.

Addressing CORRECTION:

Yes, use KPN on your street address. It turns out that KN is a designation used by some in-house County software. We have also confirmed information for Pierce County GIS and Planning which may result in a five or six street address changes. These changes are needed to show emergency response personnel the actual access to island homes. Affected members will be notified by letter. The XXX addresses on the Assessor-Treasurer website should also disappear.

Derelict Vehicles: One trailer has been removed from Yew Blvd, and another from East Herron. One boat remains to be taken away. We will soon begin another round of contacting owners of properties with derelict items, asking for voluntary compliance. Only one member has refused to help with the removal, when contacted. County Code Enforcement Mark Luppino is continuing to work on removal of the many vehicles on the West Herron Blvd. properties.

Backup Office Manager Position: Nine applications were received, evenly distributed among members and nonmembers. We are screening applications, and hope to set interviews for December 7.

Water System Replacement/Upgrade:

Information gathered on behalf of the membership will be in the Island Manager report, in the Beachcomber, or on www.herronisland.org, the community's official web site. If members have questions regarding the project, we urge them to contact the Board or Island Manager directly, rather than rely on unofficial sources.

Part I: The USDA Loan Application: The Cultural survey has been completed and submitted to USDA as part of our application. The wetlands report should be complete soon. These items will fill in all the requirements of the USDA process at this point. USDA funding will not become available until the adoption of the federal budget by Congress.

Part II: The "Retain or Transfer" Vote:

The Request for Information (RFI) has been advertised and NWS is responding to inquiries. A proposer's conference will be held next week, hosted on the island by Northwest Water Systems, our engineering firm. Proposals are due at NWS by December 21. All questions regarding the RFI should be referred to NWS.

Water Maintenance and Operation: Members experiencing water problems should telephone WASHINGTON WATER SERVICE COMPANY at 253-851-4060. This is a 24 hour number.

Emergency Preparedness: During the November 2nd CenturyLink outage, we contacted Pierce County Emergency Management about the loss of 9-1-1 service. The County forwarded this issue to the State, which then contacted Century Link and received the same poor response (voice recording) as we did. The State then contacted the Utilities and Transportation Commission.

The repair trouble report from Century Link classified the October 19 outage as arising from "natural causes". This outage was caused by the vandalism which severed the island cable to the mainland.

We urge members experiencing poor phone/Internet/customer service to write to the Utilities and Transportation Commission, via email at consumer@utc.wa.gov or UTC, P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504.

Pierce County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan:

Our plan is complete, and approved by Washington State Emergency Management and FEMA. It now needs final adoption by the Board, and a resolution is attached for your approval. We will then receive the final plan incorporating the resolution, and will be eligible to apply for predisaster mitigation grant funds to strengthen the island's resilience against disasters..

Fire Department Liaison: We will set up a follow-up meeting with FD #16 to develop a plan for the next ferry out of service period.

Land Use: The Committee is working on encroachment issues affecting HMC rights of way, with letters to be reviewed by the Board prior to mailing.

Legal Liaison: Currently, four delinquencies, three of which are with the attorney: Marcinko, Ruckstein, Tchochiev. The other is Wiebe.

Parks: Committee Report

Roads: Committee Report

Rules: Committee Report. The Committee needs new members, since all are volunteers and many times they are simply not available to participate in hearings. All outstanding complaints have been resolved; a total of \$700 in fines was levied for infractions over the July 4 weekend.

Transportation: We continue to have several mainland complaints about noise from the ferry stacks, and have been contacted by the Coast Guard and Governor's Office about complaints filed with them. Although none of these agencies, including the County, has jurisdiction over vessel noise, I am suggesting that we engage an acoustical engineering firm to do a quick evaluation of the problem and potential solutions. The first phase would take noise measurements on the boat and establish an empirical baseline for mitigation, if needed.

Eric Helpenstell, a licensed captain from Gig Harbor and a specialist in oil spill containment and cleanup, has accepted our offer of employment as standby captain. He will begin training in December.

North Beach Marina: The ballot measure is attached for your approval. It will then be mailed to members, and returned ballots will be counted at a special meeting January 8, 2011.

Pierce County Wharf Easement: No action on replacement agreement.

Technology: Toured the Steilacoom Ferry system, where they move 200,000 passengers annually. The ticket office is fully staffed each day, and, since it is a public ferry system, there are no security issues related to guests and/or contractors. We did learn a little about hardware, but the software is adapted from school lunch ticket systems.