

Island Manager Report
November 9, 2013

Administration:

Much of this past month has been consumed by records management, recruiting, screening and interviewing job candidates, and administrative work on permit issues. The Roads, Water and Land Use committees have been hard at work, and HMC is fortunate to have such terrific volunteers.

Due to staff out of office commitments, and the coming holiday, the HMC Office will be closed Friday, November 15, and Thanksgiving Day, November 28, and the day following, Friday, November 29.

Water Operations: Charles Smith has been hard at work developing a list of project that need to be undertaken at the pump station, over time. These include making room for road material storage and creating a dry space for the water manager to work.

Judy Greinke and I met with NWS to discuss implementation of the cross connection control program. We forwarded to NWS a list of those 12 or so properties which may have assemblies requiring backflow control. NWS will then contact these owners to confirm the device and obtain a current certification, or advise the owners how to obtain certification. This is done at the owner's expense. We have a handful of owners who have not yet responded and sent them a letter which explains the need to return the survey form to HMC or risk water shutoff, as required by DoH regulations.

We have also found that a water meter was moved, without HMC knowledge, at an address on East Herron. We will probably inquire of the owner if they did this work, and advise them by letter that only HMC should work with the meters. Tampering with meters or components of a water system is a punishable criminal offense.

So far we have been unable to dispose of the water parts inventory to WWSC, and are working on an alternative proposal. If anyone knows of a plumbing or construction company that might be interested in the inventory, please have them get in touch with HMC.

Fred Fath continues to assist with the meter reading program implementation and developing water records. Much appreciated!

Water Committee Report: Judy Greinke, chairman, will report. The committee is exploring whether water billing could be done electronically and, if so, what the postage, printing and mailing savings would be to HMC.

Water System Project: The Pierce County inspector has made his final visit and said "ok" to the stockpile removal and trench repairs. Once we deliver to him the as builts and the engineer's report, we should have closure on the permit.

Bruce Whittle, of USDA, will come out to the island November 13' which should be quite straightforward, but it is a required visit.

Fire Department Liaison: Several islanders attended the Fire Department presentation on October 19, but only one person submitted a timely application. The time and training required is probably a big disincentive for most people, and so, we will see what the Survey & Rating Bureau review brings us next year.

FD #16 has informed us that they are discontinuing the pagers currently in use by the crew as of December 31, 2013 and converting to text message alert for the fire fighters. Assuming that the pager is a more certain alert system – and HMC does not provide cell phones for employees-- we will need to investigate acquiring two pagers for our crew members, although the Fire Department isn't purchasing pagers until March.

Land Use: Committee Report included in Board packet. The committee completed an island-wide survey of trailers and motor homes on private property in response to a request of the Board. The underlying concern is the health and environmental impact of disposal of gray water from any occupied trailer.

Emergency Preparedness: Committee Report.

Parks: No committee report. The IM met with Pierce County planning staff regarding what permits, if any, would be required to make “landscape” improvements along the east side of North Beach, particularly in the area which appears to be eroding. Permit requirements can range from prohibitive to permissive, and more exploration needs to be done before a decision can be reached.

Roads: Committee Report. Two contractors came to the island and toured in order to provide estimates. Thanks to Jack Wells and Steve Kramer for guiding them around. Morrison Gravel, of Port Orchard, submitted the low bid. Based on the experience and approach offered by that company, we are recommending that the Board approve grading by Morrison Gravel in the amount of \$3,506.75. Grading will be scheduled as soon as the weather permits, in order to groom the roads for winter.

The alignment project at South Herron/East Madrona is underway and should result in drainage and other improvements. Steve Kramer and Jack Wells will be doing the work. Expect to see a new stop sign in that area when the work is done.

With the road improvements which occurred at the foot of East Herron and Madrona Lane, there's been considerable discussion about formal closure of the unmaintained road. Common understanding seems to be that a previous Board took action to declare those unmaintained areas as such at some time in the past. We are recommending that the Board take a formal action to close the unmaintained area at the east end of South Herron, and the second area on Fir Lane. Following Board action, these areas will be marked “closed to vehicles” and if possible, barriers will be added.

Rules: No further complaints.

Herron Island Ferry: With John Farris' assistance, we interviewed three candidates for standby captains and are prepared to make offers to two of them, assuming that everything checks out. This should provide us with four standby captains.

Bruce Mowell, a resident of Lakebay, completed his training as standby deck hand, which gives us now two standby deck hands.

Legal Liaison: We currently have 17 delinquencies, of which 10 are with the attorney for action. Delinquency rate of 4.4%. Last year at this time we had 12. Currently, HMC has 389 Assessable Units and 397 Water customers.