

Island Manager Report
July 9, 2016

Administration.

Community Building: We are still in need of cleaning services for the community building. Anyone interested please contact the office.

Volunteers:

Thanks to all the ballot counters at the June Annual Meeting. And thanks to all those who will help count ballots today. Dave LaLonde – thanks to you for cleaning up our mainland parking lot! See Roads report for volunteers on roads cleanup day.

Tansy: Pull or cut down that bright yellow weed. Expect the inspectors any time during July. Tansy is particularly bad on South Herron and on East Madrona. A few bad properties make it easier to understand why Herron Island is a noxious weed control target. The Pierce County inspection team has asked for the names of anyone who would be willing to work to pull tansy, if owners need a referral.

Insurance: Our insurance brokers visited the island and toured for a couple hours. They were pleased with the improvements to HMC infrastructure and impressed by the amount of remodeling and new construction taking place.

Water Operations: Charles Smith will report. The Consumer Confidence Report was completed and mailed on time, with no changes from the previous year. No testing was needed for several inorganic chemicals because of the high quality of Herron Island water.

An annual Water Use Efficiency Report is also due each July to the State Department of Health. Water systems are required to set efficiency (conservation) goals to reduce water consumption. The goals need to be monitored annually, and revised every 6 years through a public process.

2015 report – Water Produced – 8.4 million gallons; Leakage 8.3%; 3 Year Average Leakage 7.0%

In 2011, before the new water system was constructed, HMC pumped 10.2 million gallons. Because water usage was not metered, there was no way of estimating leakage, other than frequently repairing the old system as it broke down.

Water Committee Report: Charles Smith will report for the committee.

Fire Department Liaison: Fire Chief Guy Allen will speak at the July board meeting regarding the upcoming fire district levy election, and will address questions about volunteer fire service.

Emergency Preparedness: Mike Shettlesworth will report. Mike notes that Members should check their properties for toxic plants, and that a child was affected by poison ivy this last month. While looking for tansy, it's a good time to clean up the other toxic plants and flammable woody debris. Photos of poison ivy and tansy appear in last month's Beachcomber.

Parks: Committee Report. Two new picnic tables have replaced older ones that were at the pavilion. The old tables were a hazard and have been disposed of.

Some work is needed on the small boat docks, where planks have warped or otherwise become loose. Use caution on the docks until the repairs are complete.

Roads: Committee Report.

Roads work party was attended by Tony Spiotto and Kim Oo; Merry Kogut; Dana Gruber; Steve Ohlsen; Jack and Nancy Wells; Bill Placek; Bob Hartnett; Gary Wanzong; Andy Thompson; Steve Kramer; Ted Jensen; Steve Drake; Mike and Judy Gage; Charles Smith; Ferd and Kathy Reichlin; Ginny Major; Kathy Deuster; Mike and Jonna Graham; and Sue Pottorff.

All ditches along HMC properties were cleaned, including Nature Park, end of Goodpaster Park. Areas around fire hydrants were cleared with weed eaters, and the Pump Station area was cleaned up. Outstanding work by Jack Wells, Dana Gruber and Tony Spiotto, in particular. Every Member should clean his/her ditches of debris and grass. It's an obligation of ownership, reduces fire hazard and improves drainage during the wet season. All this work helped prepare the roads and ditches for the grader, which pulled gravel back into the center crown of the road to improve drainage.

The Roads Committee reported a lot of litter along the roadways. When you walk HMC roads (or beaches), take a bag along and collect trash as you go.

There remain several roads projects to improve drainage, increase safety and reduce erosion. Much of this work will be scheduled out in the next few months.

Rules: No outstanding rules complaints.

Herron Island Ferry:

Fall Ferry Inspection: In even numbered years, the ferry undergoes a USCG required out of water inspection. Our former shipyard, Vigor Industrial, in Tacoma, is no longer available, and so Captain Farris was asked to find a new shipyard. The only suitable yard, on our schedule (September/October) was Stabbert Maritime, in Ballard. This are several impacts from this: the trip to the yard will take much longer; accommodations for the crew are far more expensive, and it is a new service for the Herron Island ferry. Only one crewmember, Captain Farris, will stay in Seattle during the inspection and maintenance. Some of Stabbert's rates are less than Vigor's, but we will have to wait to analyze the overall effect on cost.

Ramp Painting Warranty Work: A member observed that there appeared to be some rust spots under the mainland ramp, which was sanded and painted last September. We contacted the project engineer and brought in the painters. After examining both sides, the painters put a plan in place to some and take care of the relatively few trouble spots. In the words of the project engineer, Andy Packard, it was a difficult job and it is not unexpected that there are a few trouble spots popping up. The work will occur in the next few weeks, and there will be no effect on ferry service.

Dolphin Replacement Project: Finals plans and specifications are in review with USDA. The bid advertisement has been approved, and if all goes according to schedule, the ads will appear July 21. If the Board approves the USDA loan financing, the Letter of Conditions, a basic contract between HMC and USDA must be signed to lock in the loan at 2.75%. KeyBank is ready for an HMC application for interim financing.

Ferry Crew: Steve Rucker has accepted work out of town for three years, so, until we can recruit, train and hire standby deck hands, we are dependent on our current two – Dale Miller and Rich Urfer. We are also recruiting and interviewing for captain, as two of our current standbys have been unable to make their required training schedule.

Transportation Committee: No report.

Technology: No report.

Legal Liaison: We currently have 13 delinquencies, 5 of which are with the attorney for collections. Delinquency rate of 3.4%. Last year at this time we had 15 delinquencies. Currently, HMC has 383 Assessable Units and 397 Water customers.