



NEWSLETTER

February 3, 2024

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Greetings,

I want to update you on our progress with our water system upgrades.

As was presented and discussed at our September meeting, the priorities for our Class A water system are: Ensure Reliability, Establish Redundancy, and Enable Possible Expansion, in that order. Our work toward these must comply with state mandates, specifically policies and regulations enforced by the Department of Ecology and Department of Health.

We have contracted with Northwest Water Systems (NWS, our Satellite Management Company) for the design engineering required for our expansion plans, which depend on drilling another well. NWS will ensure we meet applicable standards and guidelines.

As the "new guy" I have been on a real fast paced learning curve, as many moving pieces need to be understood and addressed before we can proceed. Currently we are in the process of identifying how much community-owned property is available and suitable for adding a well; this has been more challenging than expected. For instance, we have discovered that the legal description of our wellhouse parcel (from 50 years ago!) needs to be corrected before a surveyor can be hired to help confirm the property boundaries. This must happen before we can establish the best location to drill the well, in compliance with the required 100' Wellhead Protection Sanitary Control Area.

We hope to meet soon with the Department of Health in Olympia and NWS to discuss our options and to learn what obstacles we may face in upgrading our water system.

Thank you all in advance for your patience as we move forward. There are many regulations and requirements that guide and direct our work, and some are clearer and more easily satisfied than others. We will continue to investigate and understand all that we need to so that we can make the best decisions for our water system.

I will keep everyone updated as our new water system progresses. In the meantime, we need to schedule the 2024 annual meeting. Traditionally it's in June, so how about June 23 or June 30 (both Sundays)? Please reply to this email with your preference and we will see which works best for a majority.

Dennis Frett
OBCG President