

# ANNUAL REPORT OF REGIONAL WATER ASSOCIATION OF PIERCE COUNTY

October 2006 – May 2007

## Introduction

The Pierce County Regional Water Association (RWA) was formed for the following purposes:

- To exchange information regarding policy, purchasing, employment and operational matters in which mutual problems exist or may exist;
- To combine and coordinate efforts of the members in the solution of mutual problems;
- To provide joint action on matters of mutual concern.

This annual report provides information on the current composition and finances of the RWA and provides a summary of monthly meeting topics and major accomplishments on matters of concern to members of the RWA for the period October 2006-May 2007.

## Board

The Board of Directors for 2006-2007 was Randy Black (president), Tom Sawyer (vice-president), Roger Nottage (treasurer), Jane Evancho (secretary) and Tim Wells. Randy Black and Tom Sawyer were elected to two-year terms (06/07 and 07/08). Susan Clark replaced Jane Evancho as secretary in March 2007.

## Membership

The RWA had 24 members and seven associate members for the 2006-2007 year, a decrease of four members from 2005-2006. In total, the RWA members serve approximately 211,533 connections. A complete list of members is attached.

## Finances

The RWA had \$32,338.86 in the association's account as of April 30, 2007. Dues for 2006-2007 were \$20 per 100 connections, capping at \$1,000 and \$125 for associate members. At the April 17, 2007 meeting, members agreed to continue this fee structure for 2007-2008.

## Summary of Monthly Meeting Topics

*Presentations/Informational Topics* – To accomplish the purpose of the RWA guest presentations were given at monthly meetings from October 2006 to May 2007 as summarized below.

- Update Information Dept of Health Website - John Ryding, Health

- Water Conservancy Boards – Janet Carlson, Ecology
- Thurston County Water Conservancy Board – Mike Rhubright, Chairperson
- Fort Lewis Water Conservation – Joyce Chavez, Fort Lewis
- Tabletop Pandemic Flu Presentation – Jim Price, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept
- Water Festival Report – Gary Porter/Michelle Cox, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept
- Water Use Efficiency Standards – Jennifer Kropack, Health
- Chambers/Clover Creek Watershed Modeling Project - Mark Savoca, USGS
- Partnership for Water Conservation – Janet Nazy
- Central Puget Sound Water Suppliers Forum Outlook Update Project - Janelle Rogers, CDM
- Orting Source of Supply Vandalism Incident Debriefing – Brad Harp, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept

*Associate Members* - In April 2007 the RWA began offering associate members the opportunity to present information to the RWA as a formal agenda item. In April, AHBL (Dave Matz) provided members an overview of AHBL, including services offered by the company and in May Pierce County Public Works & Utilities, Water Utility staff (Katherine Brooks) provided an overview of Pierce County's responsibilities related to implementing the Pierce County Coordinated Water System Plan.

*Other Business* – To allow members to raise issues of interest and coordinate activities, each RWA meeting concludes with an “other business” agenda item. Other business agenda topics from October 2006 to May 2007 included the following:

- An exchange of information regarding draft revisions to WAC 246-390 (state reporting levels);
- An exchange of information on available flagging companies;
- A discussion of problems occurring associated with Pierce County Planning & Land Services Department issuing occupancy permits prior to receiving water availability sign-off. The discussion resulted in a meeting with County officials and confirmation that changes to the water availability letter and process were needed.
- An exchange of information lead by the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department regarding a proposed use of stormwater injection wells located within wellhead protection areas.

### **Summary of Major Activities / Accomplishments of Mutual Interest to Members**

#### *Central Puget Sound Water Suppliers Forum*

- The RWA continued its participation as a member of the Central Puget Sound Water Suppliers Forum. Two communities, the demand forecast and water

supply committee have formed to begin work on the update of the 2001 Outlook, a comprehensive report on municipal water supply in the three-county area.

#### *USGS Chambers-Clover Creek Watershed Modeling Project*

- The USGS is currently developing a surface-ground water model for the Chambers/Clover Creek Watershed. Along with other former members of the 2514 watershed planning unit, the RWA is a participant in the project. When completed, the model will be the primary tool for understanding the aquifer and surface water system in the watershed, supplanting both the 1985 Brown and Caldwell and 2003 Technical Assessment completed under the 2514 watershed planning process. The Pierce Conservation District serves as the local project sponsor and financial contributions from RWA members and others has occurred. Although focused on the Chambers/Clover Creek Watershed, the study area includes portions of the Puyallup-White and Nisqually watersheds.

#### *Municipal Water Law: Water Use Efficiency Rule*

- The RWA has participated in the development of draft Water Use Efficiency rules required by the Municipal Water Law.

#### *Water Conservation*

- The RWA is currently exploring an association membership in the Partnership for Water Conservation. In the past, the RWA has been a member of the Water Conservation Coalition until it merged with the Partnership for Water Conservation in 2006.

#### *Youth Education*

- The fifth annual Water Festival was held at Pacific Lutheran University in March 2007. Approximately 1,000 fifth grade students attended. The RWA participated through contributions and volunteers assisted during the event.

#### *Emergency Preparedness*

- In April a representative of the RWA assisted in the Pierce County Emergency Operations Center to assist with the response to an incident of vandalism which occurred at a City of Orting source of supply.
- A representative of the RWA participated in a pandemic flu exercise held in February 2007. Approximately 200 people attended, primarily policy-makers. The focus of the event was on policies that may need to be revised to prepare for a pandemic flu. By participating, the RWA was able to stress the importance of water and water utility personnel during a flu pandemic and was able to bring the

issue of prioritizing vaccines to water utility personnel to the policymakers for consideration.

- A representative of the RWA provided information on water utility vulnerabilities to the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management's planning and intelligence committee and to the Pierce County Council.
- The RWA is represented on the Pierce County Emergency Management equipment committee formed to distribute money received from the Department of Home Land Security.

*Other*

- In an effort to improve the effectiveness of the RWA, in January 2007 the RWA Board distributed a survey to RWA members.

**REGIONAL WATER ASSOCIATION OF PIERCE COUNTY  
2006-2007 MEMBERSHIP**

<b>COMPANY</b>	<b>CONNECTIONS</b>
Bonney Lake, City of	10,385
Canterwood Water Company	700
Carbonado, City of	300
Crystal Mountain, Inc.	100
Curran Mutual Water Company	600
Dupont, City of	1,900
Fife, City of	1,200
Firgrove Mutual Water Company	7,274
Fruitland Mutual Water Company	3,300
Graham Hill Mutual Water Company	361
Lakewood Water District	15,900
Milton, City of	2,600
Mt. View-Edgewood Water Company	2,900
Parkland Light & Water	7,400
Peninsula Light & Water Company	695
Puyallup, City of	10,348
Rainier View Water Company	14,500
Spanaway Water Company	7,184
Steilacoom, City of	2,000
Summit Water & Supply	4,632
Sumner, City of	3,314
Tacoma, City of	92,740
Valley Water District	2,000
Washington Water Service Company	19,200
<b>ASSOCIATE MEMBERS</b>	
Apex Engineering	
HDR Engineering Inc.	
Robinson, Noble & Saltbusch	
SEMCON Inc.	
Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department	
TMG Services	
Water Management Labs	