

ANNUAL REPORT OF REGIONAL WATER ASSOCIATION OF PIERCE COUNTY

June 2007 – May 2008

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 June 2007 - May 2008.

Members

The RWA had 21 members and 12 associate members for the June 2007- May 2008 year. In total, the RWA members serve more than 212,000 connections. The complete listing of RWS members follows this Annual Report.

Board

The Board of Directors for 2007-2008 was Randy Black (president), Larry Jones (vice-president), Roger Nottage (treasurer), Susan Clark (secretary) and David Troupe. Larry Jones replaced Tom Sawyer as vice-president in March 2008 due to Tom Sawyer's January 2008 retirement from Firgrove Mutual. Additionally, Roger Nottage replaced Tim Wells as treasurer in March 2008.

Finances

The RWA had \$33,686.23 in the association's account as of May 31, 2008. Dues for 2007 – 2008 were \$20 per 100 connections, capping at \$1,000 and \$125 for associate members.

Summary of Monthly Meeting Topics

Presentations/Informational Topics – To accomplish the purpose of the RWA, guest presentations were given at monthly meetings from June 2007 to May 2008 as summarized below.

- TPCHD Long Term Groundwater Monitoring Program – Ray Hanowell and Brad Harp, TPCHD
- Briefing of Recent City of Fircrest Situation – Brad Harp, TPCHD
- State Reporting Levels – Jim Hudson, Washington State Department of Health
- Chambers/Clover Creek Watershed Modeling Project - Mark Savoca, USGS
- DOH Update of Activities – John Ryding, Washington State Department of Health
- Pierce County Emergency Management Activities and Upcoming training – Curt Beaupre, Pierce County Emergency Management
- Update: Pierce County Service Area Mapping and Coordinated Water System Plan – Katherine Brooks, Pierce County Public Works & Utilities
- TPCHD's Natural Yard Care Program – Geoff Rinehart, TPCHD
- Water Utility Security - Shawn McCallister, Pierce County Dept of Emergency Management; Derek Pell, Washington State Department of Health; Jim Harksen, Washington State Department of Health
- RWA Website Development – Jonathan Chicquette, Xsive 1 Studios
- AWWA Pacific NW Section: South Sound Area Participation – Kari Duncan, Ed Bush, Keith Olson, Barbara Sullivan, Tom Lindberg

Associate Members - In April 2007 the RWA began offering associate members the opportunity to present information to the RWA as a formal agenda item. The following associate members presented information regarding services offered by their firms during RWA meetings.

- HDR (Marc Horton)
- TMG Services (Dean Brown)
- Robinson and Noble (Burt Clothier and John Hildebrand)
- Brown & Caldwell (Darold Woodward)
- RH2 Engineering (Marshall Meyer)

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 June 2007 to May 2008 included the following:

- A presentation on the TPCHD's Environmental Health Program, including the Pierce County Environmental Health Indicators project.
- An exchange of information regarding the TPCHD's effort to update the TPCHD Land Use Regulations – Drinking Water Supply and adequacy Requirements.

Major Activities / Accomplishments

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.
- The RWA began an effort to develop a standard form for use in accounting for hydrant water use with Fire Districts to allow water utilities to calculate accounted for/unaccounted for water use as 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.
- In May 2008 RWA members exchanged information regarding current conservation programs, and the process each undertook to establish conservation goals in a public forum as required by the new Water Use Efficiency rules.

Youth Education

- The sixth annual Water Festival was held at Pacific Lutheran University in March 2008. Approximately 1,200 fifth grade students attended. The RWA participated through a financial contribution and RWA member volunteers assisted during the event.

Emergency Preparedness

- The RWA is represented on the Pierce County Emergency Management equipment committee formed to distribute money received from the Department of Home Land Security. Through this process, the RWA was able to secure funding for the purchased of 8 radios.
- The RWA is represented on the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management, Joint Terrorism Task Force.
- A representative of the RWA attended a two-day security-training course held in Puyallup. The training was provided by Halo Corporation, a private security company located in San Diego. The main training topics were how to spot terrorist groups, being observant and reporting suspicious activity.
- The RWA began discussions with Pierce County Department of Emergency Management to determine what can be done in Pierce County to address water security measures.
- The RWA participated in meetings of the Water Sector Coordinating Council which is working to develop a WARN program and a water Sector Specific Plan of the State. A WARN is a network of utilities helping utilities during small, large or catastrophic emergencies. WARN programs include the use of a mutual aid and assistance agreement that allows utilities to cross jurisdictional boundaries to provide aid during and following an emergency.
- The RWA sponsored two NIMS Training sessions.
- The RWA were briefed regarding lessons learned from the Spanaway Water Company's early-October, 2007 possible water system contamination event and City of Fircrest July boil water advisory incident.

Other

- In an effort to increase the effectiveness of the RWA, increase communications, in March 2008 the RWA approved spending up to \$5,000 to develop a RWA website. It is expected that the website will be up and operating in Summer 2008.
- Representatives of the RWA have been leading the effort to re-establish the South Sound Section of the American Water Works Association.

PIERCE COUNTY REGIONAL WATER ASSOCIATION

MEMBER UTILITIES

Graham Hill Mutual
Crystal Mountain
Spanaway Water Company
Summit Water and Supply Company
Firgrove Mutual Water Company
Peninsula Light Company
Curran Road Mutual Water Association
Fruitland Mutual Water Company
Lakewood Water District
Parkland Light and Water
City of Fife
Mountain View-Edgewood Water Company
Rainier View Water Company
Winchester Village Water Company
City of Dupont
City of Milton
Canterwood Water Company
City of Bonney Lake
Valley Water District
City of Tacoma (Tacoma Water)
Washington Water Service

ASSOCIATES

Water Management Laboratories
Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
Financial Consulting Solutions Group (FSG)
Apex Engineering PLLC
AHBL Engineers
Pacific Ground Water Group
HDR Engineering Inc
Pierce County Public Works & Utilities
Robinson, Noble & Saltbush
RH2 Engineering Inc
John Knowles & Associates Inc
Brown and Caldwell