

Welcoming Patty Hale, our New Commissioner

North City Water District is pleased to have Patty Hale serving as our newest District Commissioner in Position #2.

Ms. Hale’s strong background in community service will be a tremendous asset to the District, with over 27 years of community leadership experience as a board member for local organizations—including the Ridgecrest Neighborhood Association, Shoreline Council of Neighborhoods, King County Parks Commission, and the Shoreline Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Board.

Stated Commissioner Ron Ricker, “Ultimately we selected Ms. Hale for her long-term interest in the work of North City Water District, coupled with her unwavering and extensive commitment to her community.”

North City Water District is governed by an elected three-member Board of Commissioners that sets policy, and provides direction and guidance to District staff through a strategic planning process. Commissioners Ricker, Haines, and Hale represent the District in communicating perspectives on regional partnerships, and issues of importance to our legislators, and also interact with and addressing the concerns of our customers.



Community Updates

For the 8th year in a row, North City Water District is celebrating Fix-A-Leak week by sponsoring our annual school challenge for students in Shoreline and Lake Forest Park. Because leaking toilets can cause more water waste than any other fixture in the home, this challenge teaches local students about the importance of water conservation, and how they can make a difference by testing their home toilets with our simple leak detection kit. Classrooms with 80% participation are entered into a prize drawing; ten classrooms will receive \$100 in classroom supplies.

Mark Your Calendar:

Stop by our booth at any one of the following events to learn more about your water, and pick up a FREE “Use Water Wisely” reusable shopping bag, designed by Shoreline student Amanda D.:

Saturday, March 30th
LFP Green Fair at Third Place Books

Saturday, April 20th
City of Shoreline Earth Fair Event at Central Market

Thursday, April 25
FREE Savvy Gardener Class about Irrigation Systems at North City Water District

Saturday, April 27th
YMCA Healthy Kids Fair at the Dale Turner YMCA

Wednesday, May 15th
LFP Elementary School Science Discovery Night in their Auditorium

Saturday, June 1st
Shoreline Stem Fair at Shoreline Community College



Issue 1: January • February • March 2019

A newsletter for water-related issues and info
Serving the communities of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park since 1931

From Our Board...

by Ron Ricker, President

2019 started out quite busy for us, especially our operations and maintenance crew, given our area’s unprecedented snowfall and freezing temperatures. Many customers had frozen pipes, particularly those who lost power. Thankfully our facilities’ back-up generators kept us operational around the clock, enabling staff to handle the calls—whether talking people through the steps of thawing frozen pipes, or helping them fix internal leaks. Aside from the snowpocalypse, we’re working with several developers to ensure their projects have adequate fire flow; getting ready for our new Maintenance Facility’s construction; and preparing for the transition of our Finance Manager later this year. **Last but not least:** there’s been a lot of news recently about lead contamination in water, so we wanted to reassure our customers that our water is regularly tested and is lead free. When you hear news about lead contamination, it’s typically due to old plumbing fixtures that contain lead fittings or solder, which are common in older homes and buildings.

SAVE THE DATE

the savvy gardener

FREE Class about Irrigation Systems

on Thursday April 25
6:30–8:00 pm
at North City Water District
Learn more and RSVP:
www.northcitywater.org



Pump Station Designers Awarded

In mid January, BHC Consultants (the designers of North City Water District’s new North City/Denny Clouse Pump Station), received a Bronze Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) for “Best in State” Successful Fulfillment of Client/Owner Needs. Competition was fierce among such noteworthy projects as Lincoln Square South, the I-90 Snoqualmie Pass snow shed replacement, and numerous high rises in Washington and California. Sponsored by ACEC’s Washington state chapter, the annual Engineering Excellence Awards program recognizes projects that represent the highest degree of engineering skill and ingenuity.

North City Waves Newsletter ~ a publication by North City Water District
website at www.northcitywater.org
3) Sign up for news, alerts, free classes and more on our
2) Follow us on www.facebook.com/NorthCityWaterDistrict
1) Join www.nextdoor.com for neighborhood news and notices

Three Ways to Stay in Touch

- Water System Planning, Final Part 5
- Proactive Emergency Planning Talks
- Project Update: Maintenance Facility
- Welcoming New Commissioner Hale
- Pump Station Designers Awarded
- Community Updates and Calendar

Inside This Issue

PO Box 55367
1519 NE 177th Street
Shoreline, Washington 98155
206.362.8100



The North City Waves Newsletter is brought to you by North City Water District, and its Board of Commissioners:

Ron Ricker (President), Charlotte Haines (Vice President), and Patty Hale (Secretary).
Feel free to contact us at PO Box 55367, or 1519 NE 177th Street, Shoreline, WA 98155.
206.362.8100 • www.northcitywater.org • / NorthCityWaterDistrict



Water System Planning, part 5

Continuing the ongoing theme for 2018: The Year of the Water System Plan



1 Overview

Purpose, Policies, Rules and Regulations, Conservation, Customer Service, and long term water supply contract with SPU



2 Basic Planning Data



3 Existing Water System

Supply, Emergency, Facilities, Equipment, System, and Water Treatment



4 Minimum Design Criteria

For All System Components



5 System Analysis

Source, Storage, Pumping, Distribution, and Monitoring



6 Capital Improvement Planning



7 Operations & Maintenance

Personnel, Processes, Records, Water Quality, Safety, Emergency, Public Notification, and Preventive Maintenance



8 Financials

Water Supply, Cost of Service, Connection Charges, Funding, Capital Improvement Financing, Developer Policies, Standard Details and Specs, and Multi-Year Rate Study

Operations & Maintenance + Financials

Section 7: Operations & Maintenance

The District's operations and maintenance programs consist of three primary elements: Normal operations, emergency operations, and preventative maintenance.

Normal or routine operations consist of checking our valves, hydrants, pumps, and reservoirs, monitoring and improving water quality, responding to water main breaks, hydrant damage, and issues related to construction activities. Emergency operations are anything outside of our daily routine.

The recent cold snap caused the ground to shift in a few locations, which caused a water main break. This is something we can expect every year when the weather changes. With the help of our new telemetry system and our new North City / Denny Clouse Pump Station, we were able to identify where the change occurred that caused an increase in water movement, enabling us to rapidly assess, and repair/replace the problem.

Smooth operations and maintenance requires regular training for staff, including weekly safety training, intense one day or multiple day specific task trainings, and professional organizations' certifications.

Smooth operations and maintenance likewise requires the right equipment. One of the most visible is our large vacor truck, which operates like a giant vacuum to remove dirt and debris around a water main far more rapidly and efficiently than shovels. Owning a vacor truck has greatly increased our field crews' productivity.

Smooth operations and maintenance requires effective tracking. We have been transitioning from paper to electronic maintenance information storage, which is not only useful for the District, but also helps fire districts keep track of our routine hydrant maintenance.

Preventative maintenance is something the District is very proactive about, including routine maintenance and regularly scheduled inspections of all of our vehicles, equipment, and water system components.

Last but not least, one of the most critical components of operations and maintenance is water quality. We routinely collect water at 16 sampling stations throughout our system, and use the results to move water throughout the system for consistent quality.

We also maintain and monitor a cross connection control program, for households or businesses that have the potential to introduce water back into the system.

Section 8: Financials

Because our Board of Commissioners all live within our service boundaries, they are keenly aware of the cost of service, and the goal of keeping costs to a minimum.

Our biennial budgets begin with a careful review of the costs of past operations and maintenance, employee labor, and wholesale water (with labor and water being our two highest obligations), and serve as our guide in all of our financial decisions.

When capital improvements and infrastructure upgrades are identified, our management team works hard to identify the most appropriate scope, timing/phasing, and financing that will have the least impact on our ratepayers, including low-interest state funding, occasional grant funding, loans, bonds, and wherever possible, negotiating public/private partnerships with developers to complete water system improvements. Sharing project costs not only benefits the developer and the District, but ultimately, our ratepayers.

If you have any questions about our Water System Planning process, give us a call at 206.362.8100.

North City Water District Initiates Proactive Emergency Planning Talks

On Wednesday February 27, our District organized a joint agency meeting to initiate a discussion about regional emergency planning efforts, as part of the King County Hazard Mitigation Planning effort.

Participants included representatives from Seattle Public Utilities, Ronald Wastewater, Northshore Utility District, Shoreline Fire Department, Northshore Emergency Management Coalition, The Highlands Homeowners Association, the Highlands Sewer District, and the City of Shoreline Sewer Utility, along with individuals from King County's Office of Emergency Management.



We began the meeting by discussing what each of our agencies are currently doing to address emergency planning, continued the conversation by exploring ways that we could work together to proactively anticipate potential problems, and wrapped up by identifying ways that we could cooperatively address problems that might arise from various emergencies and related hazards.

Over the coming months, each agency will gather input from the public; their information will be synthesize into our ongoing discussions in a follow-up meeting in September. Participation in this regional planning effort will help all of us be eligible for FEMA funding.



Project Update: New Maintenance Facility

New West Construction has completed all work in Phase I of our New Maintenance Facility, including site contours, asphalt, underground utilities, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, fencing, and initial landscaping. We were all set to hire a contractor for Phase II... when those bids came in higher than expected.

On February 14, our Board of Commissioners opened Construction Bids from 3 different contractors, only to find that the bids were much higher than expected.

While it would be ideal to build everything that we want and need immediately, these bids are more expensive than we can afford.

Our Board of Commissioners directed NCWD staff to go back to the drawing board—either to reduce the project scope, or to find creative ways to phase the scope over multiple years, so we can have the facility we need, within a reasonable budget and timeframe.

After much discussion and exploration of all of the options, NCWD staff have decided to remove the Wash Building from the scope of work, and address the Vehicle Maintenance Building in a phased project schedule. We anticipate having this “repackaged” project scope out for (re)bidding around the same time as you receive this newsletter (middle to end of March).

Let's all hope that we can find an affordable contractor for our scope of work, despite Seattle's construction climate!