

Denny Clouse's Forty One Years of Dedication to the Water Industry

Few who live in other parts of our country have any idea that the state of Oregon has a dry side—a place with red rocks and sagebrush, where rainfall and resulting water supplies are never taken for granted. Perhaps it was this underlying awareness of the precious nature of water that became the influence for the career path Denny Clouse began in 1981.

From his first job at the Medford Water Commission—starting in an entry-level service position, attending classes to pass the Water Distribution exams, and eventually being promoted to Working Foreman and later Operations Superintendent—Denny learned everything he could about the water industry, from the ground up, for 25 years.

During this same time, he also became increasingly involved with the American Water Works Association (AWWA), surrounded by people who shared his passion for making a difference in the water industry. In 2003 he was elected as the AWWA Oregon/Idaho Trustee; in 2006 he became Section Chair. His commitment to making water industry education and careers available to anyone inspired his involvement in the Scholarship Committee, where he not only read over the applications and essays to provide feedback to the committees, but continues to be instrumental in raising scholarship funds through the annual AWWA and WASWD Golf Tournaments to this day.

In 2006, Denny accepted the Operations Manager position at North City Water District. Over the past fifteen years, his unparalleled knowledge, experience, and dedication has helped position the District as one of the most efficient and effective special purpose water utilities in the region. Thanks to his involvement,

North City Water District has benefitted from tremendous improvements in both operations as well as capital programs.

Denny's ongoing commitment to education and career development continue to be reflected in "making every moment a teachable moment." Whether mentoring an employee on a project, providing perspective at board meetings, giving a presentation at a school or industry conference, or meeting with developers, fire department personnel,



Denny Clouse (left); Max Woody (right)
photo provided by Amanda Guthmiller and Tristan Clouse

or members of the legislature to share "a water purveyor's perspective," Denny believes education is one of the best ways to improve the water industry.

At the end of this year, Denny is looking forward to bringing his 40+ year career to a close, and passing the baton on to a long-time friend and colleague in the water industry, Max Woody.

Following Denny's retirement, he and his wife Cheri plan to move back to Oregon to be near family, where he can find ample opportunities for fishing, golfing, and "teachable moments" with his grandkids. All of us in the water industry wish him well, and will be forever grateful for his countless contributions, passion and dedication.

New Director of Operations, Max Woody

Knowing we'd be losing Denny by the end of the year, we began a national search earlier this summer for someone to fill his position. After interviewing several well-qualified applicants from outside of the Pacific Northwest, we received a resume from someone just a few hours south of us in southern Oregon named Max Woody.

From his depth of experience as Public Works Operations Managers for the Cities of Jacksonville and Central Point, Oregon,

to his background in water infrastructure construction and crew management, Max was extremely well-qualified. Even his educational background in local and state government was a bonus: giving him the perspective for interfacing with public agencies and state legislators.... something that

we at the District have made a point to maintain over the years.

But when we found out he and Denny had been water industry colleagues and friends for years, we knew he was the right match.

"I wasn't really looking for work when I saw Denny was retiring," said Max. "He always spoke very highly of North City Water District, so I did some research and really liked what I saw, read and heard."

When he's not on the job, Max loves being outdoors hunting, fishing and "attempting to golf." He and his family enjoy an annual tradition of rafting the Rogue River in southern Oregon every summer.

We look very forward to having Max on our team, and know that his friendship with Denny will ensure wonderful continuity.

North City

WATER DISTRICT

90 YEARS • 1931–2021

NORTH CITY WAVES

Issue 4: October • November • December 2021

Serving the communities of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park since 1931

A newsletter for water-related issues and info

From Our President...

by Patricia Hale, Board President

As 2021 draws to an end, we've been reflecting on how much our ability to anticipate and address change has been a common denominator for our District, not only this past year, but throughout our 90 year history (which we've been enjoying sharing with you all in this newsletter and on our website's blog). In this year alone, we completed our new Maintenance Facility; we're addressing ongoing capital improvement programs to help our water system operate more efficiently; we refinanced our bonds to yield over \$427,000 in savings to our ratepayers; we've completed one and are currently managing two more smooth audit processes (one by the Department of Revenue and two by the State Auditor's office); and along with 16 other water purveyors in King County, we are currently negotiating an update to our sixty-year contract with the City of Seattle for our water supply. All this, while continuing to provide safe, reliable water service throughout the challenges of the pandemic, without any rate increases. Starting in 2022, we expect to only need to do a modest rate increase, thanks to our proactive approach to finances and operations.



North City Waves Newsletter ~ a publication by North City Water District

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- Inside This Issue
- From Our President

• Our 90 Year History: Part 2 of 4

• Winterization Tips

• Time for our Annual Audits

• Forty Years of Dedication: Denny Clouse

• New Director of Operations: Max Woody

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

Patricia Hale (President), Ron Ricker (Vice President), and Charlotte Haines (Secretary).

Feel free to contact us at PO Box 55367, or 1519 NE 177th Street, Shoreline, WA 98155.

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

90 Years of Excellence

The Story of North City Water District, Part 2 of 4

Our first three decades of operation were characterized by incredible growth and change—from our humble beginnings in the Lago Vista development, to exponential infrastructure growth (despite the supply impacts of World War II), our first drought, and City annexations.

On August 1, 1931, Lago Vista residents and business owners voted to establish King County Water District 42 (the original name of what eventually became North City Water District). The following year, we adopted our first Comprehensive Plan, and after a few additional amendments, it was approved by unanimous vote in 1933. This plan was critical in order to enable the District to begin applying for government financing.

In 1935, we received our first infrastructure funding, in the form of a Works Progress Administration grant for \$184,783.72. Along with additional funding from bonds sold for us by the City of Seattle, this provided the amount we needed to get started.

One of the first concerns we faced was a shortage of iron during World War II. Normally water mains (large water transmission pipes) are made from ductile iron for maximum structural integrity and longevity. However war-time demands for iron gave us no choice but to install water mains made from steel, in order to provide timely water services to our ever-growing population. Over time, all of these steel mains would need to be replaced with iron—something we had to factor in to our proactive maintenance programs early on.

By 1946, what began as the Lago Vista subdivision (as described in our previous newsletter) had grown into a successful, small-town-style business district, complete with a contest to give our area an official designation: North City.

The newly formed North City Community Club got right to work promoting local businesses by organizing the area’s first annual festival. Dubbed “Sourdough Days” in honor of the public’s tongue-in-cheek perception of our area being “up near Alaska,” it quickly became a regional hit that attracted thousands of people to the North City area every summer.

More visitors led to even more new residents, as well as the new customers we began servicing after several adjacent annexations—all of which required significant infrastructure expansion to meet demand. Over the next five years, new components included four miles of cast iron water mains with larger diameters, a 400,000 gallon reservoir next to our existing elevated storage tank, a 1,000,000 gallon reservoir, two Booster Stations to regulate water pressure, and a Supply Station. These and other improvements enabled us to service our rapidly growing population, while also providing significantly more resilience against droughts or other emergencies.

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The start of our area's original Lago Vista development



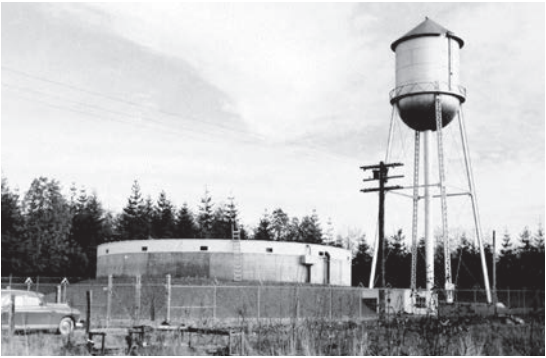
Our first District building constructed in 1936



Second District building constructed in 1946



Pancake breakfast on 15th Avenue during “Sourdough Days”



Our first water storage tank and reservoir, circa 1951



Hancock Station, NE 177th & 15th NE, circa 1960



I-5 construction in the early 1960s

We also began promoting water conservation as part of a regular household routine. Customers were pleased when they no longer had to ration lawn and garden sprinkling during summer droughts “between certain hours, on certain days, alternated between odd/even house numbers, and during the progress of any fire.”

During the early 1960s, construction of I-5 essentially divided our service area into two sections, creating several areas with dead-end water mains, many of which still exist to this day. After an extensive water system engineering analysis, we began re-routing all affected water mains, and replacing any of those that were found with leaks as a result of soil disruption related to the construction.

One of the most important milestones during this decade was the formation of the Washington Association of Sewer & Water Districts (WASWD), an organization that we continue to be grateful for to this day, thanks to their support and representation of special purpose districts.

By the end of the 1960s, our customer base had grown from roughly 700 households and businesses to over 5,000!

Visit our website where monthly blog posts detail each decade of our 90 year journey (in addition to these newsletter summaries). Our goal is to give you a first-hand look into the level of foresight, planning, and dedication that has made your special purpose water utility one of the best in the nation.

Winterization Tips

Protect your pipes in 4 easy steps:

1. Disconnect and drain garden hoses.
2. Insulate exterior pipes and faucets.
3. Insulate interior pipes and faucets in cold areas (including unheated attics, basements, garages and crawl spaces).
4. Locate your master water shut-off valve and test it *prior* to an emergency.

Additional Precautions:

- If you have a yard sprinkler system, drain and blow out the system completely.
- On extra cold nights, open the doors of closets or cabinets that are located near water pipes on your home’s exterior walls.
- For maximum protection, apply caulk around incoming pipes, and close or block your home’s foundation vents during the coldest months (open them up once the threat of freezing has passed in order to prevent dry rot).



Time for our Annual Audits

During the fall of each year, our Financial Statements are audited by both federal and state auditor’s offices to ensure the District’s compliance with certain laws, regulations, contracts, and our own internal policies. We are proud to report that we have passed our Department of Revenue audit with flying colors, and are now awaiting the audit from Washington State (SAO).

Once both audits are complete, we invite you to review all of our Financial Statements and Audit results on our website at:

www.northcitywater.org/resources/financial-statements-and-audits