

## Board Byline

*By Paul Gornick, Board President*

Our community over this past year has faced a pandemic, wildfires, and an ice storm. Throughout these uncertain times, the District continued to operate 24/7 with essential staff, providing safe drinking water, sanitary sewer, and stormwater management services.

This spring, the Budget Committee met over Zoom and worked together to keep the rate increases to a minimum. The volunteers on the Budget Committee, who are also community members and customers, had a deep understanding of the challenges we have faced over this past year.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank our Budget Committee and everyone who provided comments at the June 15 public hearing on the proposed \$1.31 per month increase for the \*average residential customer's monthly cost. Here is a breakdown by service:

- Drinking Water \$0.39 per month
- Wastewater \$0.78 per month
- Watershed Protection \$0.14 per month

The rate increase was approved and will cover specific cost increases for federal rule changes, electricity, purchased water, cybersecurity insurance, state permits and fees. These rates are effective on July 1, 2021.

The Board of Directors continues to be committed to making smart investments and working to keep rates affordable. Please call (503) 654-7765 if you have any questions or issues with your services.

\*The District defines its average residential customer as a single-family residence with a 5/8-inch water meter, monthly water consumption of 6 CCF (hundred cubic feet), winter average water consumption (averaged as a calculation of wastewater billing) of 6 CCF, and 2,500 square feet of impervious surface (one equivalent service unit or ESU) for watershed protection billing.

## Create a Healthier Water Community

Thank you for all that you do to help make our water safer and healthier. Here are four summer activities that make a difference and protect our waterways.

1. If you keep a lawn, consider letting it go dormant in the summer and fertilize with a slow-release nitrogen fertilizer just once in the fall after Labor Day. This conserves water for the fish all summer and then promotes lawn growth in the spring.
2. Remember to pick up after your pet — bacteria left behind from pets can flow into our creeks and rivers without treatment.
3. Washing your car? Remember to keep all soapy water on the grass and out of the storm drain — or take it to a car wash.
4. Shade our neighborhood — trees and native vegetation help keep water cool and filter pollutants before running into local creeks.



## Community Participation

You're invited to attend Virtual District Board Meetings. At this time, Board meetings are being held online. Learn how to call in at [oaklodgewaterservices.org](https://oaklodgewaterservices.org) or email [info@olwsd.org](mailto:info@olwsd.org) for assistance. The upcoming meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. on July 20 and August 17.

## Get a FREE Landscape Water Audit to Help Save Water and Money

The Clackamas River Water Providers (CRWP) offers free Landscape Water Audits during the watering season (May-October) to District customers. Water use in our community more than doubles during the summer months due to outdoor watering. Higher than normal outdoor water use is often the sign of inefficient use of water in our yards or an irrigation system that needs repair and scheduling adjustments. A landscape water audit is a way to get your irrigation system and landscape on track and running right.

Saving water and saving money is what a landscape water audit is all about. The CRWP Landscape Auditor will assess your lawn and garden areas, irrigation system and more. Residential landscape water audits often include but are not limited to:

- A walk through your yard/gardens including all lawn area.
- Making note of existing soil types, plant material, naturally available water, and sun exposure.
- Locating the water meter, noting any existing leaks from the meter throughout the irrigation system.
- Locating the irrigation controller, making note of the make/model as well as the current schedule.

When the audit is complete you will receive a detailed report with all recommendations recorded such as irrigation and controller schedule adjustments for better water efficiency, and maintenance of existing plant material giving you the tools you need to better manage your outdoor water use.

The audits are available on a first come first serve basis. The audits will be approximately 1.5 hours, please be available to do the walk through with the auditor. The auditor will practice social distancing requirements. To schedule your free landscape water audit contact Christine at [christine@clackamasproviders.org](mailto:christine@clackamasproviders.org) or call (503) 723-3511.



## Fish on the Run, Irrigation Done

This summer the Clackamas River Water Providers (CRWP) will begin the annual "Fish on the Run, Irrigation Done" annual summer watering campaign. The purpose of this campaign is to encourage our customers to greatly reduce or stop all outdoor water use by September 1st in order to leave water in the Clackamas River for the fall fish migration. Visit the CRWP website for more information on what you can do to help at [clackamasproviders.org](http://clackamasproviders.org).

## Every Drop Counts

Here are 5 easy water conservation tips:

1. Turn off the water while you brush your teeth
2. Take shorter showers
3. Check faucets, pipes, and toilets for leaks
4. Adjust your sprinkler heads so they water the plants or lawn, not sidewalks
5. Use mulch in your garden

## Emergency Contact Information

Our team is available 24 hours a day at (503) 654-7765. If you see water gushing up out of either the street, ground, or from a manhole, please call us. Use the same number if you notice sewer spills or if you see someone illegally dumping into a storm drain.



Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)  
[@OakLodgeWater](#) for news and updates