



CONSOLIDATION UPDATE—*Dan Bradley, General Manager*

By an overwhelming margin, you approved the consolidation of the Oak Lodge Water and Sanitary District’s and you are probably wondering what is happening now. The simple answer is a lot of things.

The final consolidation approval was received from the Secretary of State’s office on December 27, 2016. This approval was preceded by obtaining the necessary approvals from Clackamas County and Metro. The Internal Revenue Service issued a new employer Identification Number on December 27th also. On January 1, 2017, Oak Lodge Water Services (OLWSD) became an official special district. Until those approvals were received OLWSD did not have the authority to collect money or pay bills.

One of the most often asked questions we have been receiving is when will joint billing begin. A new billing software system is needed to be able to combine the water, sanitary and surface water fees onto one bill. Accella was selected as the software of choice. It may take as long as one year to combine all the different customer accounts to place them on one bill. We do not want to rush the conversion and have major billing errors like those that have happened to other government entities.

An architect has been hired to design an addition to the Water District office. Once the design is completed the expansion will be bid for contractors to construct the improvements. We expect this to take up to a year. Once the improvements are completed the sanitary staff will move to the water building and the sanitary building will be sold to pay for the expansion that was necessary.

The consolidation is a complex issue and the process is the same as beginning an entirely new district which essentially this was. Now that OLWS is formed and approved staff and the Board will work hard to make this merge as quickly as possible. The most important thing to staff and the Board is to do it efficiently and correctly.

IMPORTANT MEETING DATES

2017 FEBRUARY						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

2017 MARCH						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY 21:

Oak Lodge Water Services Board Meeting at 6pm

MARCH 21:

Oak Lodge Water Services Board Meeting at 6pm

All Board Meetings to be held at Oak Lodge Water Services Building:

14496 SE River Rd.,
Milwaukie, OR 97267

Public is welcome to attend these meetings.

BILLING UPDATE

Oak Lodge Water Services District “went live” on January 1, 2017! Our new website also launched as of the beginning of the new year, and we are excited to ensure prompt and professional service through online bill pay, permitting, and service questions concerning drinking water, wastewater, and water quality issues. OLWSD covers just over 30,000 people in Oak Grove, Jennings Lodge, and portions of Milwaukie and Gladstone.

NOTE TO CUSTOMERS: Online bill pay will be available under one page, but will require the customer to go to TWO different bill pay sites to pay their water and sewer bills. This is a technical necessity while we combine our billing systems. Customers can look forward to a single bill – and a single pay button – by the end of 2018.

Please explore our new website at www.oaklodgewaterservices.org. Let us know if you have any questions!

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

- ◆ Run only full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher. (Saves 75-200 gallons per week).
- ◆ Keep a bottle of cold water in the refrigerator for drinking instead of running the faucet. (Saves 200-300 gallons per month).
- ◆ Wash dishes with the least amount of detergent possible minimizing rinsing. (Saves 50-150 gallons per month).
- ◆ If you don’t want water in a restaurant, don’t take it, you will save the water in the glass and the water used to wash the glass. (Collectively saves millions of gallons per year).
- ◆ Rinse vegetables in a filled sink instead of running water. (Saves 15-25-gallons per month).

SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT PERMIT RENEWAL

Jason Rice, Deputy General Manager

You may have asked yourself in the past, what does the “Watershed Protection Fee” on my bill pay for?

In short, it goes to meeting the District’s permit obligations with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) pursuant to Oregon Revised Statue 468B.050 and the Federal Clean Water Act. As the District is wrapping up its second permit cycle now, by February 28th District Staff will have submitted an application to renew its Stormwater Permit with DEQ.

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit covers all existing and new discharges of stormwater to qualified receiving waterbodies such as the Willamette River, Clackamas River, and Kellogg Creek. More specifically, the permit requires monitoring of these water bodies for illicit discharges within our District’s boundary. Sometimes these discharges are intentional and require some amount of mitigation to remedy the issues that are caused. But other times, certain metals in dust from brake pads or bacteria from pet waste can exceed allowable limits within the rivers or creeks on a given day. For these non-intentional pollutants, the permit requires that the District perform education and outreach to its ratepayers in order to reduce the impacts.

If you would like to review the Permit Application before it is submitted, it will be posted for public comment on the District’s website early in February, or you may email the District at jason@olwspd.org to get a copy emailed to you directly.