

# Your Utility News

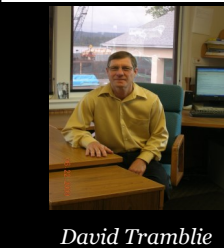
WAHKIAKUM PUD

Summer 2021

PO Box 248, 45 River St.  
Cathlamet, WA 98612  
360-795-3266; 360-465-2171  
[www.wahkiakumpud.org](http://www.wahkiakumpud.org)



## Manager's Corner *By David Trambly, General Manager*



David Trambly

This has been a very busy year for Wahkiakum PUD! Over the past 12 months we have had more new service requests in Wahkiakum County than at any other time over the past 25 years. In addition, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), the source of power for Wahkiakum PUD recently announced their first rate reduction in years. Each utility's reduction varies. Here at Wahkiakum PUD we will see only a very small overall decrease in our rate. But with the slight decrease in BPA's rates and the increased growth in new customer service requests throughout Wahkiakum County, I am very confident in the utility's ability to remain financially solvent. Because of that, I plan to present no customer rate increases to the PUD commissioners for 2022.

As the PUD Commissioner's Column points out I have decided to end my career at Wahkiakum PUD and retire. I will always be appreciative of the support that the community has afforded me and I will miss the daily interaction that comes with working with the excellent staff here at Wahkiakum PUD. It has truly been an honor to serve the community through my position at Wahkiakum PUD.

### **Fencing in your property or doing some landscaping?**



Before installing a fence or doing some landscaping look around to locate our meters, poles and transformers to ensure our staff has continued, unobstructed access to our equipment. Enclosing our equipment can hide or restrict important utility access to meters, poles and transformers for maintenance, meter reading and repairs. It can make our equipment difficult to locate during emergency situations and over time, trees can grow into the utility lines causing the potential for dangerous situations or extended outages. If your project involves digging don't forget to call for locates by dialing 811 at least two business days before digging.



### **Now Available! AUTOPAY with a personal checking or savings account**



Wahkiakum PUD has launched a new payment option for our customers using autopay with a personal checking or savings account (**NEW!**).

Customers are still always welcome to make payments using Quick Pay or by logging in at [www.wahkiakumpud.org](http://www.wahkiakumpud.org). Other options include pay by phone, mail, in person at our office or use of our payment drop box located at 45 River Street. *And the best part?* Wahkiakum PUD does not charge our customers a service fee to use any of these payment options.

Visit [www.wahkiakumpud.org](http://www.wahkiakumpud.org) and click on My Account or call 360-795-3266 or 360-465-2171 to request an Authorization for Direct Payment (ACH Autopay) form to sign up for recurring automatic payment with a personal checking or savings account.

#### **FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, we accept**

Visa, MasterCard, Discover & Electronic Check.



#### **Your Commissioners' Meeting Schedule:**

8:30am 1st & 3rd Tuesday  
of each month at  
45 River St., Cathlamet

## PUD Commissioner's Column

*By Robert Jungers*



### **As one era ends, Another begins...**

Our general manager of over 20 years, Dave Trambly, is scheduled to retire in a few short weeks. His career with us has truly been an era. His boundless energy and leadership has taken this PUD from a somewhat less than auspicious state to one that enjoys much higher esteem and respect from the public they serve today. Beginning at a time when our rates were about twice the rates in Cowlitz, he has trimmed the ship for efficiency, to the point where today our rates are about on a par with Cowlitz. He has managed financial responsibility to the point the Utility is debt free and solvent.

We can't thank him enough. Now he is free to put that energy to chasing golf balls in the sun, and much more. Dave enjoys travel very much and I expect there is a lot of that in his future.

The era to begin will be under the guidance of our new general manager, Daniel Kay. Dan comes to us with boundless enthusiasm and impressive credentials: a BS and PE in Electrical Engineering and an MBA in Business Administration. Also 24 some years in Public Utility work including IT technology. I am confident he will bring exciting progress to an already healthy and robust organization.

## How Can I Locate My Water Leak?

If you have an unusually high water bill, discover a green patch in an otherwise dry lawn or if our staff contacts you of a potential water leak occurring at your property, [www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org) suggests you may be able to use your water meter to check for a continuous leak.

### Before you start

1. Make sure all water-using appliances and fixtures in your home, including irrigation systems, are switched off and no one is using any water. Some leaks, like a running toilet, may start and stop. This method may not identify those types of leaks unless it is running at the time you check your meter.
2. Locate your water meter. Water meters are usually located along the main road to the house. If you are unable to find your PUD water meter, call our office for assistance.

### Read the dial on your water meter

1. Remove the meter box lid. You can use a sturdy screwdriver remove the lid by inserting it into the small hole and lifting the lid up. If the dial on your meter has a cover on it, open the cover to view the dial. If the meter is buried carefully clear out the box.
2. If you're not sure you have the right meter, make sure the number on your meter matches the meter number on your water bill.
3. Most meters have a low-flow indicator, a small dial that will spin even if only a small amount of water is passing through the meter. If the dial is moving, you may have a leak.

### Locate and repair the leak

You will use your secondary water shut-off valve at your house along with your meter to find out if your leak is located inside your home, outside, or in your irrigation system.

1. Find and shut off the secondary water shut-off valve at your house. This shut-off valve is installed by the property owner and can be indoors or outdoors – usually in a basement, crawlspace, or garage. If you don't have a secondary shut-off valve, it's a good time to arrange for a plumber to install one. To make sure that the secondary shut-off valve is shut off, turn on an indoor faucet and see if the water stops running.
2. Check your water meter. If the meter dial stopped moving after you closed the secondary shut-off valve, your leak is inside the house. This may be in your toilet, at the hot water tank or even along your water pipes. A professional plumber may be able to assist you to fix these leaks.
3. If the water meter dial is still moving when the secondary shut-off valve to the house is closed and you have an irrigation system, shut off the water to the irrigation system. If this stops the dial from moving, the leak is in your irrigation system. A professional plumber or landscaper may be able to assist you to fix these leaks.
4. If water is shut off to both the house and irrigation system (or you do not have one), and the meter dial is still moving, you have a leak in the service line between the meter and your shut-off valve. We suggest calling a professional plumber to locate your service lines and repair service line leaks.

We all know the importance of water and how we should conserve it. Water conservation may not seem necessary in our climate but the reality is that our clean potable water is a finite resource. We are working tirelessly to reduce our water consumption and appreciate our customers' help in conserving this finite resource.

### In an effort to reduce energy consumption and prevent severe burns and pursuant to chapter 19.27A.060 RCW, Wahkiakum PUD recommends:

- (a) Water heaters be set no higher than one hundred twenty degrees Fahrenheit or the minimum setting on a water heater which cannot be set as low as that temperature to prevent severe burns and reduce excessive energy consumption; and
- (b) The thermostat of an individual water heater furnished in a residential unit leased or rented in this state to new tenants shall be set no higher than one hundred twenty degrees Fahrenheit or the minimum setting on a water heater which cannot be set as low as that temperature pursuant to chapter 19.27 RCW.



## Payment Options

Wahkiakum PUD offers the following payment options: checks, e-checks, cash, money orders, debit and credit cards. Payment locations:

### On The Web

[www.wahkiakumpud.org](http://www.wahkiakumpud.org)

### Cathlamet Office

Monday—Friday

8:00—4:30 PM (we are closed  
12:00—12:30 PM for lunch)

### Night Drop

PUD parking lot drop box

### Other Payment Options

Make payments over the phone or set up automatic monthly payments. Call customer Service: 360-795-3266  
Toll free west-end: 360-465-2171



## After Hours Outages

Call Wahkiakum Co Sheriff's at  
360-795-3312 or 360-465-2202

## Holiday Office Closures



*Wahkiakum PUD  
will be closed to  
recognize the fol-  
lowing holidays:*

**New Years Day  
Martin Luther King Day  
President's Day  
Memorial Day  
Fourth of July  
Labor Day  
Veteran's Day  
Thanksgiving Day  
Friday after Thanksgiving  
Christmas Day**

## Looking for a way to make a difference?



Donations to the Residential Energy Assistance Program (REAP) can be made in the office, by phone and by mail. Customers can also request adding a designated amount every month on their monthly statement. All donations remain in Wahkiakum County to help local families in need.