



Newsletter

August 2024

Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District

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Commissioners:

Carl Anderson

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(To be appointed)

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Stacy Swart

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Pay Your Bill 24/7

Online: hpwsd.org

By Phone: 360-427-2413

Billing Office Hours

Mondays: 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Tuesdays: 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Thursdays: 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Board of Commissioners meetings are held on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month at 1:00 pm in the District Office, 119 E Liberty Rd. All meetings are open to the public.

Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District is not associated with or governed by the Hartstene Pointe Maintenance Association. Please direct water-sewer service related questions to the District.

Hartstene Pointe Water-Sewer District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

WIRP Project Funding Updates

The WA State Department of Ecology (Ecology) released its final *Water Quality Funding Offer List & Intended Use Plan* in late June. Ecology allocated a very favorable loan to fund the Wastewater Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project (WIRP) of \$14M at 0.4% interest that will be amortized over 20 years. In addition to the low interest rate, \$5M of the \$14M will *not* need to be repaid, assigned as *forgivable principal*.

Ecology is funding 136 projects across WA state using the Clean Water State Revolving Fund for fiscal year 2025. Funding amounts, interest rates and forgivable principals are factored based on a careful evaluation of project proposals and other considerations. Ecology specialists considered each entity's proposed project's priority, community household median income, financial stability and current debt service, among other factors. That Ecology assigned \$14M at 0.4% interest—with \$5M assigned *forgivable principal*—indicates Ecology's recognition that:

1. The District's WIRP project solves problems that not only benefit the Pointe, but also the state, Puget Sound and environment
2. The project should move forward sooner and without delay
3. Based on the scope of the project needs and costs, the District needed funding assistance to move forward with the project
4. Based on financial factors of the District and community, along with the benefits that project completion would bring, a generous *forgivable principal* amount and low interest rate should be given

The District's Board of Commissioners and staff are encouraged that Ecology considers the project a priority for the Pointe and Washingtonians and look forward to continue making WIRP progress.

Commissioner Anderson Presides over his Last Meeting



Earl "Jim" Anderson submitted his letter of resignation, informing the District that his last meeting as a commissioner would be the public meeting on July 27. Jim was appointed to the Board of Commissioners in April 2020 and later elected to a six-year term in the November 2021 general election. Jim served as board president, helping the District transact business with the two other commissioners. As a retired education professional and member of boards at other organizations, Jim contributed his time, talent and perspective as he served the community in this capacity. The Board of Commissioners regret that he must end his term earlier than initially planned, but wish him the best.

Thank you, Jim, for your contributions to the Hartstene Pointe community!

General Manager's Report

PFAS in Wastewater



In June 2023, we shared in the newsletter that we had tested our drinking water for the “forever chemicals” (PFAS) which have been appearing in news stories more and more. Thankfully, there was no evidence of any of these chemicals in our water.

PFAS are a wide group of long lasting chemicals that don't break down for a long time - thus the “forever” nickname. They are widely used around the globe. Certain water systems have been impacted due to their proximity to military bases, airports, fire training facilities, among others. A primary source of them in these locations has been in foam used to suppress fires. After use, it seeps into the ground and subsequently pollutes the groundwater.

While we didn't have any in our water, it doesn't mean we're free and clear from the PFAS problem. PFAS are actually in a lot more products than you might realize. There are thousands of PFAS chemicals and they are found in many different consumer, commercial and industrial products. As a result, without even realizing it, you are flushing these chemicals down the drain into our wastewater treatment plant. Regulators are studying the impacts they have. As of right now, we are not required to test wastewater or take any action in regard to this, but it will happen at some point.

That shouldn't be a major problem for us here. First, since there is no trace of PFAS in our potable water, we have a head start. Second, as more is discovered about these chemicals, more steps are being taken to eliminate them from household products. As things progress and we have to start testing for it in our wastewater, we will keep you aware of any concerns that may arise. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

—Jeff Palmer, General Manager

Collecting Rainwater

District staff are sometimes asked if it is allowable to collect rainwater in storage bins. The answer is yes, you can—it is legal in Washington State. If you are interested, there are some important things to keep in mind.

Collected rainwater is usually *not* potable when collected, containing significant pollutants and contaminants that need to be removed before consumption. To avoid illness, only use rainwater for non-potable purposes and keep a separate supply of drinking water on-hand. To request a barrel, look for the sign-up list located in the HPMA Clubhouse.

If you use collected rainwater to water plants and shrubs, keep in mind: what may be washed off your roof could be harmful to plants. If you have used moss killer or use zinc strips for moss control, it gets washed off the roof and ends up in the collected rainwater. Different plants have varying susceptibility to these products, so doing some research ahead of time is the safest bet.

For more information, look up “rainwater collection” or “rainwater harvesting” online.



Emergency Drought Condition Continues

Earlier this year in April, the WA State Dept. of Ecology (Ecology) declared a drought emergency. This was due to low snowpack last winter and a forecast of a warm, dry Spring and Summer. In July, Ecology sent notice to reiterate to the District that nothing has changed regarding the emergency declaration.

An atmospheric river in early June raised the hopes for relief of dry conditions across the state. Unfortunately, it wasn't enough to make much of a difference.

On Wednesday, June 26, the State's Water Supply Availability Committee (WSAC) met to discuss current conditions and forecasts. Key takeaways from the meeting include:

- Most of the driest areas are in Central and Eastern Washington, as well as the Northern Olympic Peninsula
- While some parts of Western Washington have seen slight improvement in soil moisture and stream flows, conditions are deteriorating rapidly across the state
- Forecasts indicate warmer and drier than normal conditions from July to September, particularly in Central and Eastern Washington. Predictions show that temperatures will not be as hot as expected in earlier forecasts, but water runoff and precipitation predictions east of the Cascades and in the Olympic Basin are still very low, according to Amy Burke from the Northwest River Forecast Center during the WSAC meeting



Drippy the Droplet's Water-Saving Tip:

“Repair dripping faucets and leaky toilets. Dripping faucets can waste about 2,000 gallons of water each year. Leaky toilets can waste as much as 200 gallons each day.”