

January 2020 Newsletter

Please submit questions/comments to admin@sallal.com

*New Office Hours: M-Th 8-4, F 8-noon

<p>Board Vacancy</p>	<p>Help guide the future of the Sallal Water Association! Sallal is seeking candidates for positions on its board of trustees who have any of the following: business acumen; experience in finance; natural resources and environmental permitting background: education, public engagement and social media experience; construction processes and permitting knowledge; understanding of government operations; or prior non-profit or co-op board experience. Our ideal candidate is passionate about Sallal, collaborative, and can dedicate at least 10 hours a month to board service. Trustees serve a three-year term once voted in. If you are a Sallal member in good standing and interested in being a Board member, please submit a bio to admin@sallal.com or mail to Sallal Water Association Attn: Board Vacancy, PO Box 378, North Bend, WA 98045. The deadline to submit is 4 p.m. Tuesday, February 7, 2020. Interviews will be held at the February 18th board meeting.</p>
<p>Rate Change</p>	<p>The Board approved an 8% rate increase at the December 2019 meeting. This roughly translates to an average monthly increase of around \$3 per household for the majority of members, depending on usage. In addition to the E. coli incident and associated lawsuits, engineering expenses, and costs to comply with Department of Health, Sallal has had other unanticipated expenses over the year. These include legal fees to fight the Franchise Fee (see next article), review the bylaw amendment petition, and respond to the UTRC appeal. Additional extraordinary expenses included items such as additional meter repairs, hydrant replacements, employee medical insurance, liability insurance (doubled), and taxes. This will go into effect on your bill coming at the end of February.</p>
<p>Public Input on Water Use Efficiency Goals</p>	<p>Per Department of Health requirements and as a part of Sallal's Water System Plan, goals for water use efficiency must be set. At the February 18 board meeting at 6 p.m. at 44021 SE Tanner Road, Suite E, Sallal will provide opportunity for members and the public to participate and comment on the water use efficiency goals. Sallal members also have the opportunity to comment via e-mail to admin@sallal.com any time prior to the March 30th, Members meeting, or in person at the Members meeting.</p> <p>Proposed Goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce distribution system leakage (DSL) to below 7%. DSL is the difference between water pumped from the wells and water sold or otherwise accounted for. 2. Reduce gallons-per-day (GPD) consumption by members by 0.5 gallons per day each year per Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU). One ERU is equal to a single-family home. 3. Reduce summer demand relative to the average day demand. 4. Continue with water conservation through brochures, bill inserts and water savings fixtures. <p>The current 3-year rolling average DSL is 8.2%. The historical 3-year rolling average has been as low as 4%. The goal is to reduce the 3-year rolling average to 7% in 4 years.</p> <p>The average current water use is 197 gallons per day per ERU, slightly higher than the historical average. The goal is to reduce consumption to 190 gallons per day per ERU over 20 years.</p>

King County Franchise Fee Litigation Update	<p>The Washington State Supreme Court ruled that King County may charge franchise compensation in the nature of rent to water, sewer, gas and electric utilities for use of public right of way. The Court’s ruling will significantly increase the cost of utility operations and will result in increases in your water bills. The specific amount is not presently known because the rent charge has not been finalized. Litigation may continue at the trial court level concerning the County’s compensation formula and application. We don’t know when rent will commence (it may have already commenced due to retroactive provisions of King County rules) and when the Board will adjust the rates to cover this new added cost. Even if you live in the city, your rates may nevertheless be adjusted because the Association will have to pay rent on water transmission facilities located in the County that are used to serve your area. We urge you to contact the King County councilmembers who have constituents in unincorporated King County. Their contact information is listed here: https://sallal.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Sample-Notice-to-Customers-Dec.-20-2019r.pdf</p>
Rate Study Update	<p>Sallal has contracted with a utility financial specialist to conduct a rate study. The consultant’s proposal includes evaluating rates both with and without a contract with the City, changes to the rate tier structure, plus connection fees, which haven’t been evaluated in over 10 years.</p>
Chlorination	<p>While Sallal <u>must</u> take actions necessary to comply with Department of Health for getting Well #2 back on-line before summer, these actions do not represent any decision about staying chlorinated or not. Getting Well #2 back into production is our first goal. Once that is done, we can focus on the future of water treatment in our system, with input from members.</p>
Bills	<p>Looking for an easier way to pay your bill? Sign up for ACH at no cost. Email admin@sallal.com for assistance.</p> <p>It costs Sallal over \$28,000 a year in labor, supplies, and postage to mail bills. Currently over 75% of bills are mailed. <u>Please</u> send an e-mail to admin@sallal.com with the e-mail address you want to use and your account number, eliminating the need to send a paper bill. Thank you!</p>
Member Advisory Committee	<p>Sallal’s Member Advisory Committee (MAC) has openings! If you are interested in helping advise the Sallal Board, are a member in good standing, are able to attend the monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of every month from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., and are prepared to put the best interests of the Association first, please send your letter of interest and a short Bio to Ted@sallal.com to be considered.</p> <p>Please meet one of our MAC members, Stephen Kangas: <i>Stephen Kangas</i> has been a Sallal member for more than 23 years, living in the Urban Growth Area just outside the City of North Bend. He began his career as an electronics design engineer, and eventually gained a deep background in business management in various hi-tech industries and has been an independent consultant for the past 15 years. Stephen has been active as a community volunteer for the past two decades in the Snoqualmie Valley which include serving on various local non-profit boards, working with the school district board directors and administration, and as a volunteer instructor in our schools. His hobbies include powder skiing, hiking, amateur radio, and technology experimentation. He has lived in locations most of his life where either water or electricity was supplied by a cooperative organization similar to Sallal, and highly values the benefits that delivers to its consumers. Stephen feels it's important to contribute to solving problems we are facing, which has resulted in current service on the Member Advisory Committee.</p>