

May 2020 Newsletter

Please submit questions/comments to admin@sallal.com

<p>E. coli Event Follow-up</p>	<p>Great news! Well #2 is back online, and just in time to meet summer demands! The new chlorine contact time system was successfully installed and approved by the Department of Health (DOH), so all work they required is now complete.</p>
<p>New Well and Reservoir</p>	<p>Sallal has been working on plans and permits for a fourth well and an additional reservoir adjacent to the current Rattlesnake Wells for the last couple of years. The additional Well is needed to ensure we can meet peak demand by current Sallal members, but also to ensure we have a backup in case one of our other Wells requires repairs or fails. Without a backup, we could have had a problem meeting demand during the summer months. The new Reservoir is needed to meet storage capacity requirements set by DOH. These two projects combined are estimated to cost \$2.3M and are anticipated to be built in the fall of 2020.</p>
<p>New Office - Shop Building</p>	<p>Sallal was notified by its Landlord in 2017 that the lease on its current office/shop space will not be renewed beyond Spring of 2021. In anticipation of this change, the Sallal Board evaluated several options. These included alternate commercial space to rent or constructing a new facility. The evaluation concluded that suitable space is not readily available and found that the best value to members over the long run would be to build an office and shop on land already owned by Sallal rather than continuing to pay rent. This is because the increasing rent would end up costing members more than building our own facility in the long run. Sallal's property to be used contains the Edgewick Well and is adjacent to the Genie Manufacturing Facility east of Ken's Truck Town.</p> <p>The design for the new facility is complete, permits have been obtained, and a construction management firm (Akana - a Native American owned, award winning firm) has been hired to manage the project. After receiving final loan approval Sallal will advertise the project to select a general contractor through a competitive bid process. This is anticipated to occur within the next 6 to 8 weeks. Once the project is awarded, the construction is expected to be complete within 10 to 12 months. The project's cost is estimated at a little over \$4M. Sallal has applied for a low interest loan through US Department of Agriculture Rural Development for this project and the Reservoir and Well. All together the projects are expected to add up to \$9-15 per member to the Amortization portion of your monthly bill depending on how much of our reserves we use and the final cost of the project.</p>
<p>North Bend Proposed Water Conservation Ordinance</p>	<p>The 2003 Municipal Water Law requires municipal water suppliers, which includes Sallal, to "implement cost-effective water conservation...as part of its approved water system plan". Our 2020 draft water system plan (WSP), currently available for review on our website, outlines water conservation goals the association plans to implement as part of our Water Efficiency Program. Sallal's 2009 WSP contained a water conservation program as well.</p> <p>The City of North Bend has introduced a DRAFT ordinance that would amend the city's municipal code to establish a "Water Conservation Code". This ordinance seeks to regulate the use of water during summer months and would apply to Sallal customers located within the City</p>

	<p>limits. Sallal supports conservation but was not involved in the development of this ordinance. Sallal does not believe the City has authority to impose water use requirements on Sallal members. We will monitor the progress of the draft ordinance and update the members as we learn more. Members residing within the City that have concerns should send their comments directly to City staff and council by e-mailing soppedal@northbendwa.gov.</p>
<p>Chlorination</p>	<p>Your (mostly new) Sallal Board has formed a subcommittee to assess the feasibility of returning to untreated water. Our first step is to engage DOH to determine whether a return to untreated water is feasible and practical. Next we need to understand our members priorities and values around this topic. If the assessment concludes a possibility exists, then it will assess whether the water supply and distribution system should continue treating with chlorine or return to an untreated system based on the overall costs and risks involved.</p> <p>To gather your input, we are planning to conduct a member survey. Mailing a survey is expensive and labor intensive. A more cost-effective way to do this is through e-mail or an internet survey application. In either case we ask all members that have not yet provided an e-mail address to Sallal to please contact our office to provide us with this information. Please call (425) 888-3650 or e-mail admin@sallal.com.</p>
<p>Billing Questions and Issues</p>	<p>If you receive your bill through e-billing, which means it sent to you through e-mail, thank you!! You are saving Sallal members money! The office staff would be grateful if you could wait until after the first of the month before calling to pay your bill or ask questions about the bill. The reason for this request is that these bills go out first in the billing process, and while office staff are still in the billing process, they are unable to access your account. Staff invite emails with billing questions at any time but ask that members understand that a response will not come until after the first of the month. Thank you for your understanding.</p> <p>Office staff have received many phone calls from members asking why their checks have not cleared the bank yet, when they mailed it a week ago. Please be aware that during this pandemic, staff are leaving the mail for two days' time to try to avoid potential exposure and only go to the bank once a week currently. Therefore, your payments may take a bit longer to process. Everything that staff have received by the 21st is processed on time.</p> <p>Office staff encourage members to sign up for ACH (Automated Clearinghouse). This option is free to members (Sallal pays the fee) and ensures you never receive a late fee – just sign up and forget it! ACH payments are electronic payments that go through the Automated Clearing House Network. Funds move from your bank account to Sallal's with the help of a centralized system that directs funds to their final destination. Go to Sallal's website to "billing tab". Click on the words ACH form. Print the form, fill it out, and either scan it in and e-mail it as an attachment to admin@sallal.com, or submit the paper copy to Sallal.</p> <p>Please be advised, if you are paying from your bank bill pay, your bank cuts a post-dated check and mails the check to Sallal. You must initiate this by the 10th of the month to increase the likelihood that Sallal will receive it by the due date of the 21st of the month.</p>
<p>Member Advisory Committee</p>	<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>