

## September 2020 Newsletter

Please submit questions/comments to [admin@sallal.com](mailto:admin@sallal.com)

<p><b>General Manager Update</b></p>	<p>Sallal's General Manager for the last 1.5 years, Ted Stonebridge, chose to leave his position with Sallal, effective August 31<sup>st</sup>. Denny Scott is our interim General Manager until we can find a permanent replacement. We are working on a recruitment strategy and hope to have it ready by late October.</p>
<p><b>Member Meeting on Chlorination</b></p>	<p>Several Sallal board members, General Manager, and our engineering consultant met with Department of Health (DOH) representatives on June 9<sup>th</sup> to better understand whether a return to untreated water is feasible and would be allowed. Information provided by DOH made it clear that the possibility for successfully returning to untreated water will be very challenging based on our historical water quality and the amount of work and costs involved of designing a new water quality maintenance program. DOH made it clear that the overall risks involved to both the association and members of returning to an unchlorinated system would be substantial. One adverse water quality event could retrigger chlorination.</p> <p>We know this is an important issue to many members. We will hold a Member Meeting via Zoom on this topic on Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> (delayed from September 29<sup>th</sup>) at 7 p.m. to explain all that we've learned on this issue as well as provide updates on what we are doing to keep your drinking water safe.</p> <p>Members must contact the office no later than Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> to get the log-in/call-in information to participate in the meeting.</p>
<p><b>New City Conservation Ordinance Update</b></p>	<p>The City's passage of a new Water Conservation Ordinance in June prompted the Sallal Board of Trustees to investigate Sallal's policies and legal options related to providing member usage data to the City.</p> <p>The past practice of providing water usage information for all Sallal members who reside within city boundaries was not based on any agreement executed between Sallal and North Bend, or any law, or city code. This practice was questioned by multiple Sallal members and the Board, raising concerns about the protection of member's privacy and providing personally identifying information that could potentially be used by the City to assess fines via its new conservation ordinance.</p> <p>The Sallal Board met on July 21<sup>st</sup> and decided the Association will no longer provide any usage information to the City for any members. Sallal notified North Bend's City Administrator of this decision on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Subsequently, the City's Public Works Director informed Sallal that some members had signed authorizations with the City that consented to the water purveyor providing their usage data. At that time, the City threatened to sue Sallal if we did not provide the usage data. Based on the City's claim that members had signed an authorization, Sallal agreed to provide usage data for those members once the City provided a copy of their respective authorizations to Sallal.</p> <p>Rather than provide those authorizations that the City claimed to have, the City chose not to work with Sallal and instead held a Special City Council Meeting to pass a new sewer ordinance.</p>

	<p>The new ordinance, passed on August 25<sup>th</sup>, requires Sallal to provide the water usage data of <u>all</u> members located within city limits, <u>including</u> those on septic. The City passed this ordinance at special meeting without input from the Citizens or Sallal.</p> <p>Even after the City passed the new ordinance, Sallal attempted to work with the City to resolve this impasse. Sallal offered the City an arrangement to provide limited data: The City would suspend the ordinance for 90 days while we negotiate the possibility of obtaining authorizations from Sallal members on sewer; the City would provide Sallal with a list of Sallal members served by the City’s sewer system; and the City would only use data provided by Sallal for the purpose of calculating the sewer bills.”</p> <p>On September 8<sup>th</sup>, the City’s attorney notified Sallal that they would not accept this offer and would require full compliance with the entire ordinance immediately.</p> <p>In light of the most recent ordinance, Sallal has little choice but to make member water usage data available to the City in order to avoid potential fines that hurt all members of the Association and could potentially jeopardize important projects. On September 15<sup>th</sup>, we provided usage data for the period of July 27 to August 27 under protest. We remain committed to negotiating a reasonable solution with the City. The Board will also continue to work with counsel to assess its legal options, while being conscientious with member funds. Sallal will continue to keep members apprised of changes through emails, Sallal’s website and social media.</p>
<p><b>Billing Questions and Issues</b></p>	<p>If you are receiving your bill through e-mail, please be sure to add <a href="mailto:admin@sallal.com">admin@sallal.com</a> and <a href="mailto:lisa@sallal.com">lisa@sallal.com</a> to your approved list in your e-mail client. Otherwise, your bill may be flagged as spam and you may not see it.</p> <p>Paying online through your bank? Over 100 members were late on their payments last month because Sallal is too small to receive electronic transfers, so your bank mails us a paper check. <u>You must initiate this no later than the 10th of the month</u> to assure that we will receive it by the due date of the 21st of the month. We appreciate prompt payments!</p> <p>Looking for an easier way to pay your bill? Sign up for ACH at no cost. Email <a href="mailto:admin@sallal.com">admin@sallal.com</a> for assistance. This can also reduce the risk of fraud as there is no paper check mailed by you or your bank to Sallal.</p>
<p><b>Water System Plan Status Update</b></p>	<p>Sallal’s draft water system plan was reviewed by the King County Utility Technical Review Committee (UTRC), the committee within King County tasked with giving recommendations to the King County Council on Water System Plans. Sallal has submitted responses to comments from both Department of Health (DOH) and UTRC. The next step is to receive a recommendation from the UTRC that the King County Council approve the Plan. The last step will be to receive approval from DOH.</p>
<p><b>Member Education</b></p>	<p>If you are leaving your residence for 30 days or more, please let us know so we can turn your water off at the meter while you are gone. This protects you from leaks that might occur while you are gone. Several members have experienced leaks this summer, creating large water bills for them. We also recommend that you turn off your hot water heater in case there are leaks in your lines that may drain your hot water tank. However, we do not suggest turning the water off inside your home, as that does not prevent leaks between the meter and your home.</p>
<p><b>Member Advisory Committee</b></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 <a href="mailto:Denny@Sallal.com">Denny@Sallal.com</a> to be considered.</p>