

## November 2020 Newsletter

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

### Why Do We Need an Additional Source of Water?

Sallal Water Association is a non-partisan, non-profit, member-owned utility that neither supports nor opposes growth in the area. Sallal simply has a duty, under State law, to serve everyone located within the service area. We are investigating options for securing more water to help meet that duty.

Sallal's certificated water rights allow us to withdraw 696-acre feet of water per year out of the ground. We are currently using about 570-acre feet per year. But as more properties within our service area are developed, we will max out our rights and, if additional rights or supplies are not obtained, we won't be able to serve new connections - meaning Sallal would enter a moratorium. Our new Water System Plan estimates this will occur around 2033 if we do nothing. This would likely result in other purveyors stepping in to Sallal's service area, which has already happened for two large development projects that will now be served by the City. Once a moratorium takes hold and the new connection charge income dries up, future capital projects (such as replacing aging pipes) will need to be paid for by existing members – likely through monthly rates. Long term, that cost could be significant, but it will depend in large part on the timing of projects that are scheduled 10 years or more in the future.

With this in mind, the Board of Trustees are investigating several alternatives:

1. In 2001, Sallal submitted an application with Department of Ecology (DOE) to withdraw from our wells an additional 326-acre feet of water per year. The application was set aside as no new water rights were being considered by DOE. In October of 2019, DOE contacted Sallal to let us know they are now prepared to process our application. Sallal confirmed that we wanted to move forward. To this end, we hired Aspect Consulting, a hydrogeologic consulting firm, to determine the feasibility and associated costs of moving forward. The DOE issued us a preliminary permit to pursue this water right. Moving forward with this application could cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, and given the current state of the law, it will not be approved unless the impacts of additional withdrawals on the river can be fully mitigated. As we all know, finding mitigation sources in the Valley is challenging and expensive. The Board will continue to review this option and weigh the costs against the likelihood of success, as well as considering the long-term costs to members for mitigation.
2. While no negotiations have occurred since spring, we will continue to consider a contract with the City of North Bend regarding the purchase of water from the City to supply the Urban Growth Area (UGA) within Sallal and to sell water to the City for stream flow mitigation purposes. The idea is that we would buy water from the City during the rainy months when they don't need to mitigate, and we would sell them mitigation water during the dry months when the river needs the mitigation water if none is available from the City's primary mitigation source, Seattle Public Utilities. Your Board will only sign a contract that is in the best interest of this Association. If a mutually beneficial deal can't be made, we won't do it. If we do succeed in negotiating a fair contract, we will

	<p>present and explain it to members before we sign it. Ensuring that our members continue to have safe and sufficient water at reasonable rates is our top priority.</p>
<p><b>Member Education</b></p>	<p>Please follow these steps this month to protect your home this winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cover/insulate your outside spigots.</li> <li>• Wrap pipes that are exposed to outside air with pipe foam or heat tape (check with your local hardware store).</li> <li>• Whenever the outside temperature drops below 32°F, leave an internal faucet dripping (slowly).</li> <li>• If you have an irrigation system, call your service company to have them winterize your system.</li> <li>• If you will be gone from your home for more than a month, please contact us via email, providing the dates you will be away. While we do not promise to inspect your water connection while you are gone, if we happen to spot an abnormal reading, it would be helpful to know if the home is vacant.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Billing Questions and Issues</b></p>	<p>Due to the pandemic and Governor proclamation, Sallal is not charging penalties nor pursuing any shutoffs for non-payment. However, we are all reliant on one another to pay our water bills so that the Association can continue operating on a sound basis. We are seeing many people who are just not paying their bills, and this will result in the accrual of large account balances and possible shutoffs once the Governor’s order for the pandemic is lifted. This would be an unfortunate outcome that we would like to help you avoid, so please contact us to make payment arrangements now.</p> <p>Paying online through your bank? Over 100 members were late on their payments in August 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>Member Advisory Committee</b></p>	<p>Sallal’s Member Advisory Committee (MAC) has a new member...welcome to Marcus Morissette! The MAC has more openings and plenty of projects to challenge you! 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>

Happy Thanksgiving!

