

## April 2022 Newsletter

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

<p><b>Annual Members Meeting Summary</b></p>	<p>Seven members participated virtually in Sallal’s annual member meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup> and 152 members submitted valid ballots before the meeting. This constitutes 7.96% of the eligible voting members participating either in person, by proxy, or through a mail in ballot.</p> <p>Per Article III, Section 4 of the bylaws, votes from at least 5% of the members are entitled to cast votes must be represented at the annual meeting in person, by proxy, or by mail in ballot to establish a quorum to transact association business. You did it! Sallal sends its appreciation to those that participated! We were able to reach the required quorum to hold the required meeting and reelect the three incumbent board members for another 3-year term (Daylin Baker, Joyce Hibma, and Denise Smutny). Denise will serve as Board President this year, Daylin will again serve as Vice-President, and Joyce will again serve as Treasurer.</p>
<p><b>Tell King County “No Franchise Fee”</b></p>	<p>The courts have authorized King County to negotiate with utilities for the payment of rent (aka “franchise fee”) for the use of public right of way for our existing water mains. King County has received significant opposition from water and water-sewer utilities to its estimates for franchise compensation, which is a form of regressive taxation. Now we are waiting for the County to respond to our counter proposal for reduced rent and our application for a new franchise. We have also submitted a fire suppression cost study that offsets all rent to zero. However, King County has high revenue expectations from this new program to charge utilities with rent. This is a negotiated process and because we have not gone through this process before, it is challenging to predict what will happen next.</p> <p>We encourage members to inform your King County Council Representative, Sarah Perry, of your opinions about charging water systems for franchise compensation (thereby increasing costs to members). Her email address is <a href="mailto:sarah.perry@kingcounty.gov">sarah.perry@kingcounty.gov</a> and her contact page is here: <a href="https://kingcounty.gov/council/perry.aspx">https://kingcounty.gov/council/perry.aspx</a>. You can find a sample letter to send on our website.</p>
<p><b>Backflow And Cross-Connects</b></p>	<p>It’s backflow prevention inspection time again!</p> <p>If you are required to have an annual backflow prevention inspection, you will receive notification from Sallal in the mail. They are due by July 31<sup>st</sup>.</p> <p>A cross connection is any connection to the public water supply that can allow contaminants to enter the system. This can happen if water from a facility, home, or irrigation system flows backwards into the distribution system. Properly operating backflow devices prevent this flow reversal and protects Sallal’s water from contamination.</p> <p>The Safe Water Drinking Act of 1974 and the Washington Administration Code 246-290-490 requires all public water systems in Washington State to operate an on-going Cross Connection Control Program to protect the public water supply from contamination from possible cross-connections. The Sallal Water Association adopted a cross-connection control program in 1998 with the goal of premise isolation. The Association is not responsible for eliminating or controlling cross-connections within the customer’s water system. The goal of the Association’s Cross</p>

	<p>Connection Control Program is to prevent non-potable water from returning into the public water system.</p> <p>Sallal staff evaluate all residential and commercial connections we serve to determine the need for backflow protection based on regulatory requirements as well as the appropriate type of backflow prevention required. The Association has the right to deny service to any member who does not install a required backflow device or if the member does not complete the annual testing on the backflow device. Annual notices are sent to all property owners that have or are required to have a premise isolation backflow device, reminding them of the annual testing requirements. More information on Backflow and Cross-Connections as well as a list of certified testers is available on the Sallal Website at: <a href="https://sallal.com/backflow-and-cross-connect-information/">https://sallal.com/backflow-and-cross-connect-information/</a></p>
<p><b>New Water Right</b></p>	<p>Previous newsletters described our pursuit of a new water right. At this year’s Annual Meeting we presented an overview of the progress and status, which is posted on the Sallal Website, which included these key points:</p> <p>In 2001, Sallal submitted an application to Department of Ecology (DOE) to withdraw an additional 326-acre feet of water per year from our wells. The application was set aside as no new water rights were being considered by DOE. In 2019, DOE was finally able to process our application and issued Sallal a Preliminary Permit in 2020 to evaluate a mitigated water right. Mitigation is required due to the potential for impairment of the Snoqualmie river subject to instream flow regulations.</p> <p>The first phase of the Permit process required Sallal to submit a Conceptual Mitigation Plan (CMP) by July 31, 2021. We completed Phase 1 CMP on time with the assistance of Aspect Consulting, a hydrogeologic consulting firm. Our CMP proposed using Sallal Wells 1,2 &amp; 4 with mitigation water from Seattle Public Utility (SPU) inside the Cedar River Watershed. Sixty days later, DOE completed their review and provided their comments to us which included two key points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. “...timing of impacts in the Snoqualmie/Snohomish basin and acceptable mitigation will prove extremely difficult if not impossible...”</li> <li>2. “...the City of Seattle will need to pursue a formal change application for its claim to add mitigation as a purpose of use under RCW 90.03.380...”</li> </ol> <p>We had been communicating with SPU throughout the process, but at our January 2022 meeting with SPU, they informed us they would not be able to provide us with mitigation water for our 2001 Water Right application. Consequently, without a mitigation source it would no longer be viable to pursue the 2001 Water Right preliminary permit and application. We are in the process of formally notifying DOE of our decision to discontinue our 2001 water right application. Follow-on efforts to find a new additional source of water will be twofold: Investigate with SPU the potential for Sallal to become a wholesale customer in the next 5 -10 years and stay engaged with SPU &amp; East King County Regional Water Association on long range water supply projects that may be a viable source of water in the next 20 – 30 years.</p>
<p><b>How Rates May Change in the Future Without New Connections</b></p>	<p>Sallal’s capital projects plan calls for roughly \$7M (current dollars) in capital spending over the next 8-10 years to maintain the system. We currently have roughly \$8M in capital reserves. With the remaining water from our existing water rights only able to accommodate a limited number of new connections, and if Sallal is unable to obtain additional water supply, funding for capital improvements in the coming years will need to be reevaluated to determine how much will need to come from rate adjustments. A water system capacity analysis is underway to refine our planning figures with regard to our remaining water right. Cost analysis and financial planning will be ongoing activities as capital projects are scheduled. Updates on the outcome of these evaluations will be provided to Sallal members as the results are obtained.</p>