



EAST NORTH BEND WATER UPDATE

PUBLIC COMMENTS – 8/16 SALLAL BOARD MEETING

Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to address the Board.

As the Mayor, it is my duty to ensure that all residents of North Bend have access to safe, clean, and accessible drinking water. While Sallal is a privately-owned water system, you also have a legal responsibility to provide water within your service area; which includes the areas within North Bend's city limits and urban growth area.

I am here tonight to propose action that prepares our common region for anticipated and necessary growth while protecting the Snoqualmie River and the greater environment that makes our community such a wonderful place to live.

Sallal's emergency moratorium prohibits all new water connections which of course includes new connections within city limits. The Sallal Board has stated that it "may make the moratorium permanent until additional water rights are obtained." The problem is:

- The process to obtain new water rights in Washington state is both expensive and time consuming, which leaves current and future Sallal customers in a moratorium for many years to come.
- In fact, in consideration of a recent advisement by the WA Dept of Ecology, Sallal has no reasonable expectation of acquiring new water rights.

Therefore, after careful consideration by the North Bend City Council, I am here tonight on behalf of the City to offer to purchase the Sallal Water Association for its full fair market value.

- To be clear, the City is willing to pay Sallal members for the investment they have made and commit to a transparent water rate price structure that protects current Sallal customers from abrupt, and potentially, significant costs to repair, replace and update the failing system.

- Much of the purchase price, as required by law, will need to be determined by a certified appraiser and I therefore urge the Board to immediately take steps to provide full and fair access to the facilities and records that will be needed to determine the offer price.

This purchase would effectively combine the Sallal and City operating systems into one joint, professionally managed municipal system.

The consolidated water system will ensure that all water customers, current and future, of the combined City and Sallal service areas are able to get the water they need when they need it.

Of greatest immediate benefit to Sallal, North Bend can increase the water supply to Sallal as soon as the Board approves the purchase.

I strongly believe that the best long-term solution for all Sallal and City service area customers is consolidation.

- Sallal's inability or unwillingness to meet their legal responsibilities impacts citizens and businesses across our community and has reached a point of failing in its Water Service Agreement commitments and requirements.
- This consolidated approach will unquestionably result in mutual benefits for all existing and prospective water service customers within both service areas.

The City Council and I look forward to working expediently with the Sallal Board of Directors to promptly reach agreement on the purchase and sale.

Thank you for your time tonight.

Final statement after any/all questions: I understand that you may have additional questions. If you visit our City website later this evening, you'll find an East North Bend Water Update webpage with FAQs. If you don't see your question, email us, and we'll answer it and add it to our FAQ list.