



Sallal Water Association strives to provide pure, untreated water at low cost to members.

May 2019 Newsletter

Please submit questions/comments to info@sallal.com

Update on Contract with the City of North Bend to Buy Water and Sell Mitigation Water

The Special Meeting in **July of 2018** was called for via member petition and was the largest meeting of Sallal Members in Sallal's history with more than 200 people in attendance. An Advisory vote was held in which approximately 13% (226) of all of Sallal's members (83% of those that voted) advised "no" to the question:

"Whether Sallal should enter into any new agreements to provide water to the City of North Bend without proof satisfactorily to a majority of the members that such action will have no deleterious effect upon the availability of water to the members, the quality of fish habitat in the Snoqualmie River system and the rates payable by the members."

- The board acknowledges that they need to be able to explain any impacts to water availability, the river, and member rates of any contract with the City. Beginning in 2019, some board members and the General Manager began meeting monthly with a Member Advisory Committee, and have put out Fact sheets and information about the draft contract. We are now providing these monthly newsletters to improve communication with all Sallal members.
- The board has continued to act cautiously in contract negotiations with North Bend, putting the interests and protections of all of the members first. All board members are members of the Association just like you and would not derive any special benefit from a supply contract. The fact that a contract has not been agreed upon with the City after years of meetings and negotiations should demonstrate that the board is being careful. They are not rushing into this and are doing their best to represent the best interests of the organization and all of its members.
- The board previously stated that they will not sign a contract with the City prior to the Special Meeting on June 11 (which is to vote on a member-proposed bylaw amendment). They also prefer to not sign a contract until the Golder Study is complete. The completion date for the study is still unknown. If the City and Sallal arrive at contract terms before the study is complete, the board will require that the contract include provisions to allow adjusting mitigation requirements based on the study's findings.

<p>Current Status of City of North Bend Contract</p>	<p>The City responded to Sallal’s February 21 message on April 2. Both parties remain far apart on the terms of the contract. On April 18, Sallal’s General Manager and Board Vice President met with the City Mayor and Public Works Director. The City clearly stated they could not entertain any proposals that did not include a provision of mitigation water from Sallal to the City.</p> <p>The points of disagreement within the draft contract with the highest priorities were discussed and some consensus was gained. It was agreed that Sallal’s General Manager would continue verbal discussions with the City’s Public Works Director to try to make more progress on the terms of the contract.</p>
<p>Update on Conditional Water Certificates , Moratorium, and Emergency Interim Rule</p>	<p>The Special Meeting in July of 2018 provided for an Advisory Vote in which approximately 11% of all of Sallal’s members (67% of those that voted) advised “no” to the question:</p> <p>“Whether Sallal should continue to issue conditional water permits.”</p> <p>The board heard clearly from these members that the conditional water permits were confusing and misleading. They reviewed member input and revised their Emergency Interim Rule to create a waitlist and did away with conditional water permits by allowing them to expire without renewal.</p> <p>The “Notice of Adoption to Changes to Emergency Moratorium Rule and Hearing” was submitted to local newspapers the week of April 22 and is on Sallal's website. It describes the changes adopted on April 16, 2019 to the Emergency Interim Rule which included expanding the scope of the moratorium on new connections and adjusting the waiting list procedures. The Board held a hearing at the next regular board meeting (May 21) to take testimony regarding this moratorium.</p>
<p>Update on King County UTRC appeal from Mule Pasture Developer</p>	<p>On April 1, 2019, the Mule Pasture Developer (Cedar River Partners) filed an appeal with the King County Utility Technical Review Committee (UTRC) to request that the County find that “water service is not available in a timely and reasonable manner” for their project, and to exclude them from Sallal’s service area such that the City of North Bend is allowed to serve their property instead. Related documents are posted on Sallal’s website.</p> <p>Sallal provided a written “Statement of Defense”, but due to the liability to the association of interfering in a property owner’s right to pursue water elsewhere when we aren’t able to serve them, Sallal could not object. The UTRC is supposed to issue a final determination within thirty days of the date that the written record is complete. If the appeal is granted, Cedar River Partners would pay the costs to run a water main from the mule pasture down North Bend Way to the City’s water main, where they would hook-up to City water to serve their development, located in Sallal’s service area. Sallal Water Association would lose \$3-4M in connection fees, plus future monthly water usage charges for the 212-unit apartment complex. Additionally, Sallal has an 8-inch water main under the proposed roundabout at 436th and North Bend Way. Cedar River Partners was to install replacement water mains outside the roundabout. They were also going to construct a new major (12-inch) watermain to help hydraulics within the system. So, losing the ability to serve this property means Sallal may have to do that work instead of the contractor.</p>