



The Tap

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City of Fife

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Fox Island Mutual Water Association

Fruitland Mutual Water Co.

Graham Hill Mutual Water Co.

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Spanaway Water Co.

Town of Steilacoom

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Valley Water District

Washington Water Service Co.

President's Pipeline

If you want to be successful in business, you must sell something that people want and need. I couldn't help but think of this while attending a recent training class at a water conference. Sure, some of the attendees were there because they needed CEUs. The point, however, was to gain knowledge, which every water system operator wants and needs.

I had been asked to speak at this conference to share lessons learned from our just completed seismic retrofit project involving two steel reservoirs, and funded by a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant. Additionally, I taught a class about dealing with security, so we talked about security and damage considerations involving terrorism, vandalism, and non-compliant customers.

Most of the other training subjects were typical of every water conference. Useful and necessary, but if this wasn't your first rodeo, it wasn't information you wanted or needed; you already knew it.

After my seminars, and throughout the remainder of the conference, I was struck by the enthusiastic comments from attendees, especially regarding the security information. There is a strong thirst in the vast information desert for knowledge that solves everyday problems. Typical water conferences rarely

address this want and need, and it is our own fault, because we rarely take the time to share our "lessons learned" amongst ourselves.

Your Water Cooperative is the exception to this rule! Together we have nurtured strong relationships, and whether it is a problem or success story, we share real world information that we all want and need. The water conference I recently attended reminded me how valuable and unique our organization truly is.

Providing safe drinking water is an awesome responsibility, never to be taken lightly. Public health is only possible with knowledge, hard work, and

always doing the right thing (even when nobody is looking). Setting the example, helping each other, and sharing knowledge all characterize the strength of the Co-op and keep us relevant, because together we provide a service we all want and need. I thank each and every one of you for your contributions!

Marc Marcantonio

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Ecology Begins New Program: Certified Water Rights Examiner

The 2010 legislative session included direction to the Department of Ecology to enact a new program to allow qualified professionals to become certified water rights examiners (CWRE). This would allow a water rights permit holder to hire private-sector providers to confirm their water use has been perfected and that a full water rights certificate should be issued. In the past, this function was completed by Ecology staff. The goal of establishing the CWRE program is to help Ecology streamline its activities and speed up the processing of water rights activities. Ecology finalized its rule making process in November 2011, generating Chapter 173-165 WAC, as authorized by the new law RCW 90.03.655.

Ecology's news release describing the program can be found here: www.ecy.wa.gov/news/2012/384.html.



Diru Creek Well 3 pump test

More information is available at: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/rights/cwre.html.

In short, the program will work like this:

When a water right application is approved, a permit is issued that allows the user time to put the full appropriation to use. When the user determines their use fully meets the limits of the permit, they apply to Ecology to move the permit to certificate status. This is accomplished by submitting a Proof of Appropriation form. This proof request must be confirmed by a field visit and examination before the certificate can be issued. It is this step that the CWRE will fulfill. Once the program is running, the permit holder will hire a CWRE, have them complete the process of final examination, and submit their findings to Ecology. Ecology will then issue the certificate based on those findings.

The program began in August 2013 after the first round of CWRE examinations was completed. Nineteen examiners were

certified by the initial testing, including staff from two of the Co-op's contributing partners: RH2 and Robinson Noble. A list of examiners can be found here: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/rights/Images/pdf/cwre/cwre-list.pdf>.

Burt Clothier, Robinson Noble.

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Chambers Creek Dam: An Uncertain Future



Chambers Creek pre-1933 dam construction

This past summer, Pierce County undertook an evaluation of the Chambers Creek dam as part of its environmental stewardship of the neighboring Chambers Creek Properties.

The dam was originally constructed in the lower reach of Chambers Creek in 1933 via a joint venture contract between adjacent property owners Glacier Gravel Company and Everett Pulp & Paper Company. The original purpose of the dam structure was to create a water impoundment that would allow the withdrawal and beneficial use of Chambers Creek surface waters for their respective gravel mining and pulp/paper manufacturing operations.

The dam and the impounded area of Chambers Creek have been the focus of many stakeholders over the years, generating interest

in issues such as fish runs, water resources, water rights, recreational users, and proposed developments of various kinds. The site is challenging in that it includes an aging dam, three water diversions (one to each site of the creek and a third to the hatchery), a bridge and a sewer force main that cross the creek, and a WDFW hatchery facility. Further, the bridge location is smack dab between the jurisdictions of the City of University Place and Pierce County. The biggest concern is simply the integrity of the dam itself. While a dam failure is not anticipated, and would not be likely to prove catastrophic, it would interrupt use of the water rights, disrupt the WDFW hatchery operations, and possibly impact the bridge and pipeline structures.

Another uncertainty is sediment transport downstream. So, the

County is trying to address the future of the facility while also balancing the desires of the various stakeholders.

As part of the investigation, Robinson Noble evaluated the risks to the County's groundwater rights (none found) and provided a summary of environmental concerns. The surface water conditions would be dynamically modified by removal of the dam, both up and downstream of the dam position. Without the dam, tidal effects in the creek would be expected to migrate about 700 feet further upstream past the dam location. Through this reach, surface water would become tidally-influenced, i.e., "brackish" water and thus would not be acceptable for the County's irrigation use at the Chambers Creek Properties. Removal of the dam and water reservoir would mean an end to direct surface water withdrawals from the

current Chambers Creek pumping facility, and obtaining new water rights farther up the stream channel are not foreseeable, given that Chambers Creek watershed is a closed basin.

In the end, the County identified seven possible options, ranging from a status quo position to complete removal of the dam and replacement of infrastructure crossing the creek. The costs were estimated at between \$175,000 and \$14.5 million over a 50-year planning period. No decisions have been made yet, as too many unresolved details remain. Regardless, the issue is sure to prove interesting.

Burt Clothier
Robinson Noble



Chambers Creek Dam and WDFW Facility, July 2013

WCPC Annual Picnic

The Water Cooperative's 1st annual picnic was a great success, and we've scheduled the same space for next year's BBQ.



Sunnyside Beach picnic facility, Town of Steilacoom



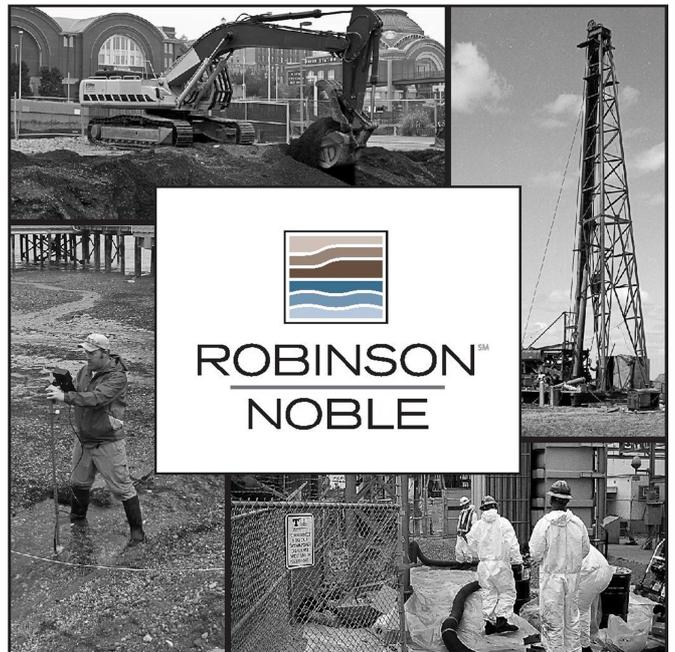
Food prep in the field!



A special THANKS to the Public Works staff for helping out



Lunch is served!



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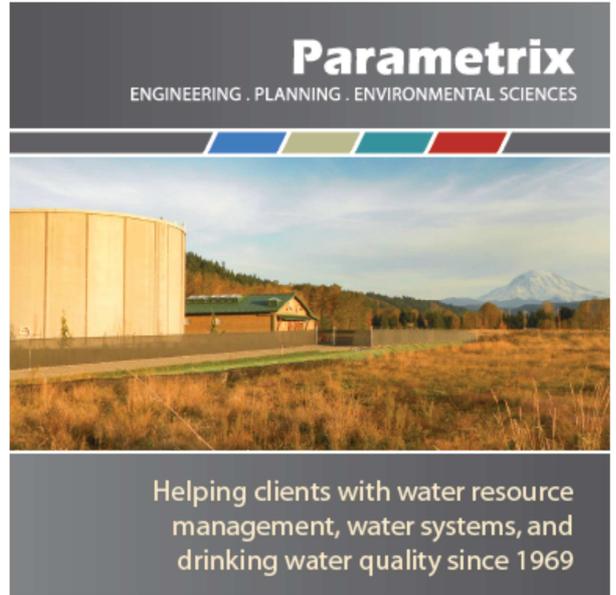
WCPC Annual Picnic

More Photos

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Happy Birthday Marc!



Representative Dick Muri (28th Dist.) was our special guest



Everyone enjoyed lunch



Serving Marc's birthday cake



Steilacoom's Doug Hale discussing clever tools to temporarily shut off flow in PVC pipes



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