

The Tap



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President's Pipeline

Communication in and out of the workplace:

What a summer we have had here in Western Washington. Makes me wonder some, how I used to tolerate the weather working outdoors all those years in Yakima...couldn't have anything to do with age.

On that subject though, I want to talk about communications, first amongst Regional Water Cooperative of Pierce County members. As I advanced and learned in my water career in the Yakima area, I realized there was a real lack of communication amongst water utilities. You hardly, if at all, knew who your counterparts were in the valley; even upper management rarely met or spoke unless there was some kind of emergency. I worked for years before I even knew the county operated water systems; I just assumed that was the way it was.

I was amazed when I came over here and started attending the then Water Cooperative of Pierce County meetings and realized the advantages in communicating with the other neighboring water utilities. I have to say, I knew I was ready for that next step in advancing my career, but there is no doubt that attending the meetings and having open and easy communication to fellow managers has made me a

better manager and, in turn, Fruitland Water a better company.

This summer was also a good example, in having Tacoma Water (TPU) involved in the RWPC and giving other members advanced notice of their public announcements. This really helps to prepare managers to help staff with answering questions on the subject as customers call in.

I believe by communicating our legislative objective early on with other entities, we greatly improved the RWPC's efforts in Olympia in recent years.

In our busy jobs at our utilities, it is easy to get caught up in tasks and work inside your box. As leaders in the water industry, it is imperative that we

communicate with all staff down to the newest, inexperienced employee. In the service, I learned this as being "The Commander's Intent," a philosophy that makes sure every member of an organization knows the mission, be it daily operations or an emergency. It can be difficult at any utility, and especially at smaller ones, to find the time to educate and keep staff up to speed on current events, but it is imperative we strive to do so.

A good example is here at Fruitland Water, we recently had to take down our new 1MG concrete tank for a repair on a panel. In doing so, we used a wholesale connection as a virtual

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Legislative Affairs Report

The legislature is in recess, so our Legislative Committee Chair Jeff Johnson does not have a legislative affairs report for this edition of the newsletter. Instead, the RWPC took advantage of the lull to give something back to Jeff.

President Larry Jones presents Legislative Chair and Past President Jeff Johnson with a beautiful water drop award in tribute to his many years of service to the Co-op in many different

capacities and, most recently, his tireless and selfless efforts and leadership in helping to get key water bills passed this past legislative season.

The Water Drop Award reads:

Jeffrey N. (Jeff) Johnson

With great appreciation and much gratitude for many years of going above & beyond as Legislative Chair

President's Pipeline

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

reservoir to feed the new booster station. Two additional main taps and a connection were required, but the more important part was the correct valve positioning and the sequence so as not to impair proper pump operation. I worked through all of that and documented my steps, and then as soon as I could, I gathered the rest of the field staff, drew everything down on a white board, and have posted the information on site for future use. It is easy to think we will be around if it happens again but, sure enough, when it does is when you won't be.

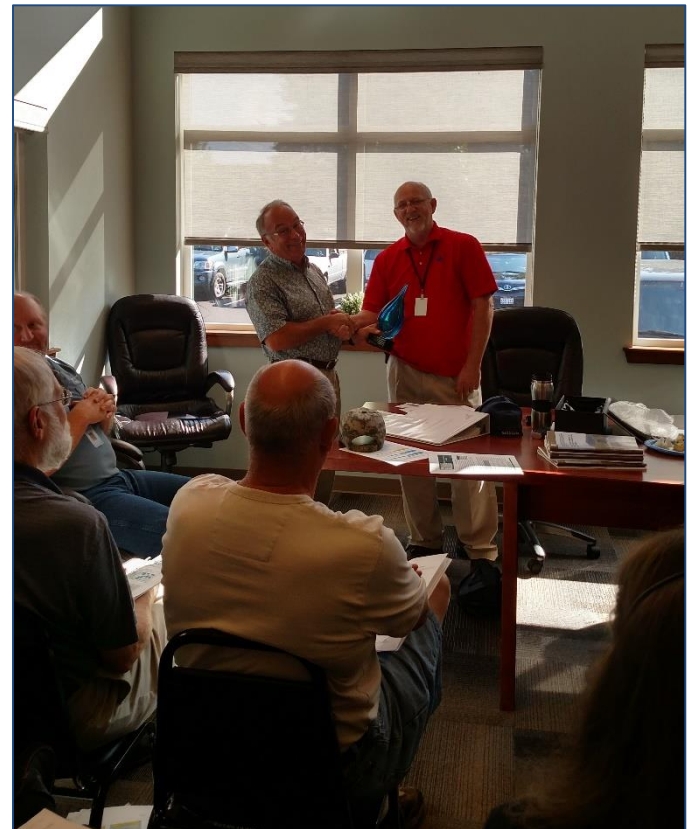
I am sure all members of the RWPC have protocols in place for communication, but I know I have caught myself not passing on information that should be.

"Work efficiently and safely," I tell my crew here... "everyone goes home tonight."

Ted Hardiman

Manager
 Fruitland Mutual Water

Secretary, Regional Water Cooperative of Pierce County



Planning, Engineering and O&M

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Washington Drought Update

So with the onset of the autumn rainy season, it feels like the worst part of the drought is past and we'll soon be back to normal, right? Don't be so sure. While this year's drought conditions broke records across the state for low (or no) snowpack, low stream flows, high temperatures, and low precipitation, most groundwater users reported no significant impacts. But what happens if we see the same weather patterns repeated next year?

According to the Office of the Washington State Climatologist (OWSC) and the National Weather Service, the chances are good that we'll see another low precipitation and high temperature year in 2016. The graphic to the right illustrates the outlook through 2016.

Each of the prediction graphs above is for a three-month period. The red portions indicate the percent chance of higher than average temperatures. The December through April graphs all show around a 60% chance of elevated temperatures. Precipitation is expected to be near average for the winter and spring, but the higher temperatures will mean a lower than average snow accumulation in the mountains. Also, the rains may end sooner than usual in the spring giving us another longer, hotter summer than typical. Another low snowpack will mean that summer and fall stream flows may be low, just like this year.

It's too soon to say how severe the drought is likely to be, but it's worth keeping an eye on the trends and

preparing for a repeat of the 2015 drought. Groundwater users are unlikely to be directly impacted unless the winter and spring precipitation in the lowlands is lower than normal. The bigger impacts to wells will usually come from the extra user demands during a long, hot summer, but it's important to remember that changes can sometimes be

subtle and slow to become obvious.

Operators and managers, we recommend you take an extra look at your water-level monitoring programs. Identify the high water level values during this past winter/spring and the lowest levels during the summer/fall. Watch the patterns over this upcoming winter. If levels return to the high-range values of 2015, then your system should be fine if it was okay this year. Wherever water levels seem

lower than average, keep a close watch on those wells as the summer production ramps up.

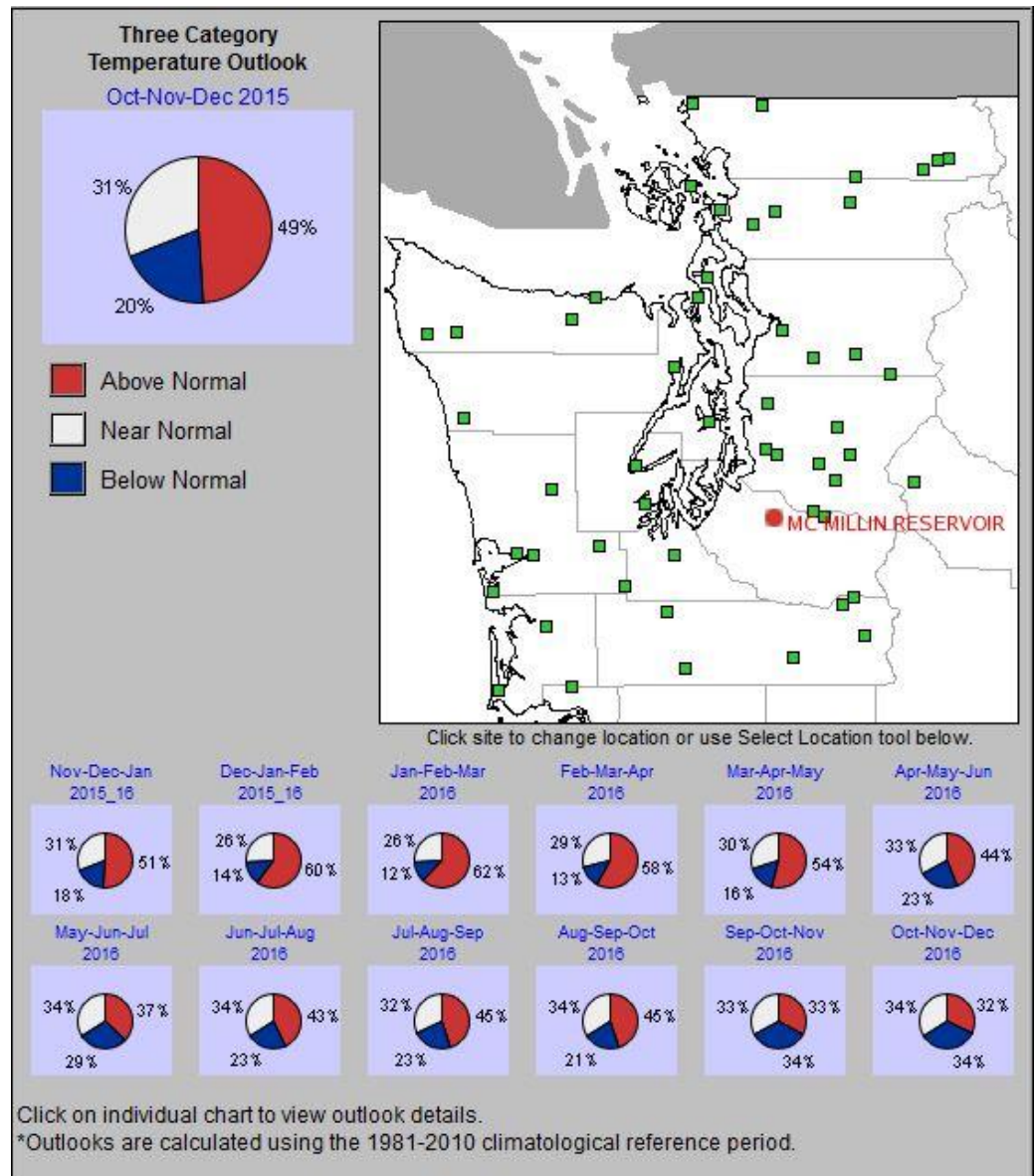
You can find more information at:

http://w2.weather.gov/climate/calendar_outlook.php

<http://www.climate.washington.edu/>

Burt Clothier, LHG

Robinson Noble, Inc.



Monthly Meeting Reminder

We have two monthly meetings left in 2015. We want to be sure you know where and when to join us.

Thursday, November 12

9:00 a.m.
City of Puyallup
1100 39th Ave SE
Puyallup, WA 98374

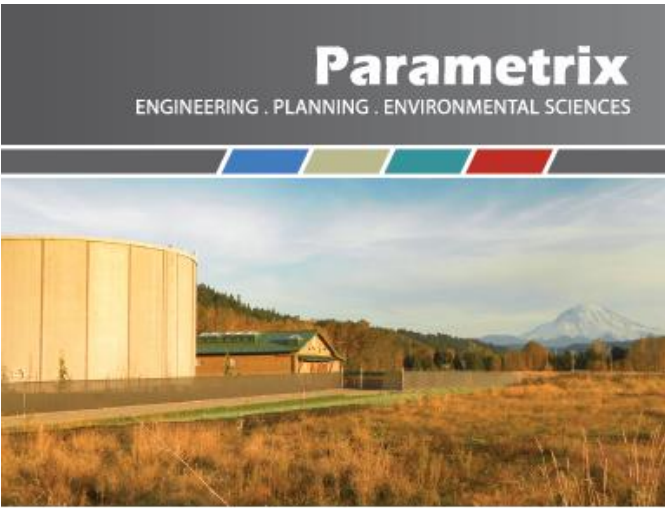
Thursday, December 10

Annual Meeting and Dinner
6:00 p.m.
Pierce County Environmental
Services Building
9850 64th Street West
University Place, WA 98467

See you soon!

RWCPC Has a New Mailing Address!

Please take note of our new address:
Regional Water Cooperative of Pierce County
PO Box 111359
Tacoma, WA 98411



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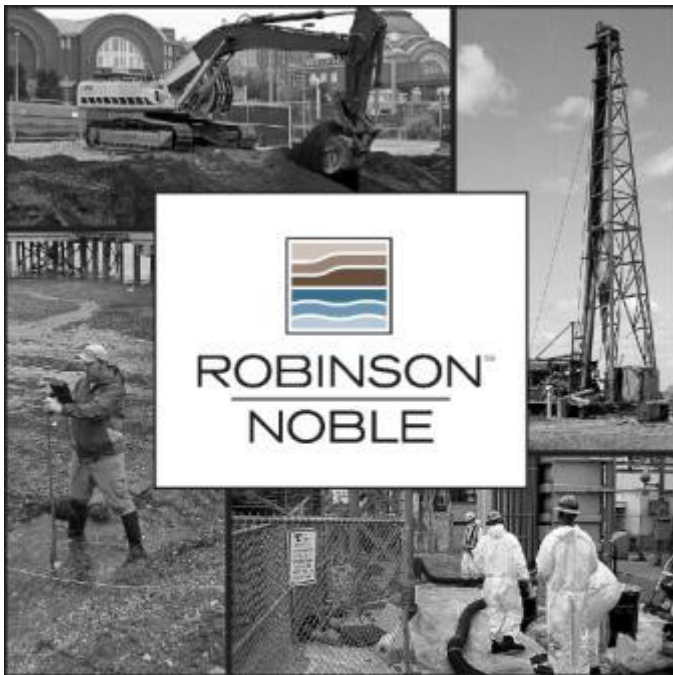
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Summer Picnic 2015

We had another great summer picnic at Sunnyside Beach Park in Steilacoom. Despite the occasional train passing by, we enjoyed the good food and company, plus got a legal update from water rights attorney Tom Mortimer and a legislative update from our lobbyist Bill Clarke.

The RWCPC also received a Certificate of Appreciation from the South Sound Subsection of PNWS-AWWA for the Co-op's sponsorship of the Subsection's annual golf tournament.

MORE PICTURES
ON PAGE 5



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Our chefs grilled up some great burgers

Summer Picnic 2015

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4



Left to right, Irene, Christie, Bob, and Larry



Randy Wheelhouse

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Setting up for the party



Lora prepares for a raffle prize drawing



Thanks to the Steilacoom crew for site prep



Meeting time



Just a glimpse of all the great food

Summer Picnic 2015

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5



PNWS-AWWA says thank you



The Communications/Social Committee



Sen. Pam Roach and Lobbyist Bill Clarke

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Chefs Lora & Ben