



Birch Bay Water and Sewer Water Lines

Summer Newsletter 2007

Serving the Greater Birch Bay Area Since 1968



 Do your part,
be water smart.

Wastewater Department Manager Retires

Steve Hovde, long-time manager of District wastewater operations, announced his retirement effective June 1, 2007. Steve joined the District in 1976 to manage our wastewater system, which was brand new at the time. Before joining the District, Steve worked for the Forest Service, where he was able to use his recent chemistry degree from Western Washington University in setting up the lab for a small wastewater treatment system at the Mount Baker ski area. Steve became a Certified Wastewater Operator in the course of working with this small system. After joining the District, Steve's responsibilities grew significantly. At this time, the District's wastewater collection system consists of about 56 miles of pipe, 1100 manholes and 11 pump stations. The District's 1.28 MGD wastewater treatment plant employs a conventional activated sludge process with

Summer Conservation Alert

The District's historical water use more than doubles in the summer, especially on the hot days from June through August. This places extra stress on our water supplies and delivery systems. Most of the increased water use takes place outdoors, especially with watering lawns and shrubbery as we head into summer," says District General Manager Roger Brown. To reduce outdoor water use, the District provides these tips:

- Lawns ordinarily only need about 1" of water (including rain) per week. Use a rain gauge to make sure that you do not water more than the lawn needs.
- Reduce the size of the lawn by planting water-conserving shrubs and plants, especially in the areas that are difficult to keep green through the whole summer.
- Many of the soils in Birch Bay are sandy and do not retain water well. In that situation, consider allowing your lawn to go dormant, as they do in the state park. The lawn will revive naturally when fall brings cooler weather and increased precipitation.
- If you must water lawns and shrubbery, please do so sparingly. Your lawn only needs about one inch of water per week – including rainfall - to stay green.
- Sweep that driveway instead of power washing.
- If you are washing your car, use a nozzle and turn the water off when it's not in use. Better yet, go to a car wash that recycles water!

Please enjoy the summer in Birch Bay and remember to water wisely.



Retiring wastewater treatment plant manager Steve Hovde

Published by your
**Birch Bay Water and Sewer
District**

7096 Point Whitehorn Rd
Birch Bay, WA 98230-9675
Phone: (360) 371-7100
Fax: (360) 371-2806
office@bbwsd.com
www.bbwsd.com

Commissioners:
Don Montfort
Carl Reichhardt
Patrick Alesse
General Manager:
Roger M. Brown

(Continued on page 2)

Little leaks can cause BIG
bills!



Birch Bay Discovery Days

This year's Discovery Days event is scheduled **July 21st and 22nd**. The District will once again be participating in the parade, and will have a booth in the Arts and Crafts Fair, which will be located at 7878 Birch Bay Drive (formerly Stephani's Restaurant). District representatives will be on site to answer any questions you might have as well as offering information on District programs. We look forward to seeing you at this fun and interesting event.

(Continued from page 1)

primary clarifiers and surface aerators, disinfecting with ultraviolet light.

Over the years, Steve earned a reputation for integrity, enthusiasm for his work and attention to detail – qualities that served the Birch Bay community well. Under Steve's leadership, the District met the challenge of a rapidly growing community while maintaining compliance with state and federal regulations to protect Birch Bay's unique environment. The District received DOE's "Outstanding Treatment Award," signifying 100% compliance with all the conditions in its NPDES wastewater discharge each year from 1999 through 2006, placing Birch Bay in the top one percent of wastewater treatment facilities statewide over the past seven years.

Steve points out that these achievements are the result of a consistent team effort over many years, involving the Board of Commissioners as well as all the District staff. District General Manager Roger Brown states, "Steve has done a truly outstanding job of managing the District's wastewater operations. We would like to thank him for his service to the District and offer our congratulations on his well-deserved retirement." Steve is kicking off his retirement with a hiking trip to Grand Canyon and Zion with his wife Jan and son Matthew. He is excited about being able to spend more time with family and hopes to get up in the mountains a bit more, perhaps tackling Washington's section of the Pacific Crest Trail with Jan. All the best, Steve!



District Updating Water and Sewer Comprehensive Plans

The District strives to have adequate water and sewer infrastructure and appropriate fees in place for development projects approved by Whatcom County, which is the land use authority in our area. The primary method of accomplishing this is to have comprehensive plans describing the District's water and sewer systems and identifying projects needed to keep pace with new development, changing regulatory requirements and rehabilitation needs. In addition, comprehensive plans estimate the cost of growth-related projects and establish the basis for connection fees for new development. The plans are normally revised about every six years.

For the years from 2003 to 2005, the actual growth rate was well above the District's average long-term growth rate. In response to that high growth rate, the District began updating its water and sewer comprehensive plans. While 2006 and the beginning of 2007 have seen a significant reduction in that growth rate, there are still many development projects under way – either being built or in the permitting process. The District will forecast when these projects will connect to the District system and plan projects needed for adequate water and sewer capacity. The water comprehensive plan is nearing completion, which will be followed by the sewer comprehensive plan. After adoption of each plan, the Board of Commissioners will consider the need to increase the connection charge for new development. Reviewing the connection fees helps the District ensure that growth pays for its fair share of the system without unduly burdening current District ratepayers.

NOTICE OF DISABILITY NON-DISCRIMINATION

Birch Bay Water & Sewer District does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, purchasing, services or activities. Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication in programs and services of the district can make their needs known to Glenn Golay, District ADA Compliance Coordinator.