

## **HICA Water Update to the Community**

Staff has received some questions from the community regarding water production and loss. Every July we develop a “Consumer Confidence Report” that is required by the Department of Health. The 2015 report can be found on our website under the Water System tab. This continues to be the main document that we provide the community to inform them about our water system. We are preparing production and loss information for this report for 2016 presently and are on track with getting it to you on or before July 1<sup>st</sup> 2017. In addition the Water Committee Board Chair reports monthly at the Board of Trustees meeting information about water production, costs of productions, and any issues relating to water operations including projects and water related issues.

We would like to address the actions that staff has been working on this past year.

### **Implementation of the Island-Wide Leak Detection Program:**

The 2017 annual budget funded the purchase materials and labor for implementing the island-wide leak detection program. To date the staff have installed 5 leak detection meters in Divisions H, I, S and U (one meter), and N. The fifth meter is located near F-58 (corner of Admiralty and Beach Way). Two meters still need to be installed in A Division near (Saratoga and Snohomish) and at the top of the Marina Hill. In addition, we are evaluating the need of installing meters near M and G Water Tanks. To date installations have gone smoothly and when tested, no leaks were detected in any of the sections. We are hoping to have the last meters installed in June.

An above ground meter was installed for the north marina docks and fish cleaning station. This has not been metered in several years and has been a source of unmetered water use. We currently do not have a way to gage the use of water from our fire safety stand pipes. This past year we have located leaking standpipes that may have been running for quite some time. These leaks were not large enough to lower the wells. The community has been notified not to use water from these pipes; they are for emergency purposes only.

### **A Closer Look at our Well Meters:**

Based on the outcome of the leak detection installation findings and no significant water loss in the G and M tanks, staff looked to evaluate further the accuracy of our main well meters. We have two meter sources in Well House #1. There is an older analog meter and a newer digital meter which was installed in 2014.

It appears on initial testing that the digital meter may have been reading 20% high. That means the well production was higher than actually produced. Staff has recommended continuing to test these meters over the next several weeks to see if our data/discrepancies stay the same. The main digital meter in question was switched with a digital meter from Well House #3 and staff found it matched the same reading as the analog meter in the well house. Chris Inman, our new water operator will be contacting the manufacturer about the repair or replacement of the faulty meter.

## **Are we Losing Water on the Island's Bluffs?**

Some residents believe that our water loss is from lines leading down our island bluffs. The leak detection work completed so far tells us that there are no major leaks in these areas. When Evergreen Rural visited us this past year, we discussed this possibility with the representative. Mr. Barbee said that from his survey of the island with staff that we are not experiencing a major leak, however, he said we have many small leaks throughout the system which should be addressed as we replace system lines over a period of time. Mr. Barbee commented to staff that he thought we had a very well managed system for a community our size and staffing. Since their visit we have purchased their recommended leak detection sensor so our staff can more quickly identify sources of leaks.

One area we will investigate for possible leaks is an older 6 inch line that runs down the marina hill. There may have been some damage to that line when the marina project was underway. While this line is no longer used and has been capped off, we want to double check to make sure that this is not a source of water loss. This will be scheduled as soon as possible.

## **Other Work on our Water System:**

Our maintenance and water operations team have been working on several projects around the island that we have not had the staffing resources to do. In the past several months we have built a more permanent dock pump cover (located on G Dock) which provides water to our RO. John Brown has been clearing vegetation and debris from around the well houses and standpipes. He is also painting them so they are easily seen. We continue to work around the system to clean and organize buildings. The staff will begin to work on the island wide drainage program as soon as the remaining leak detection work is completed. The funding of the full time operator position as well as the seasonal maintenance position has made a great difference in our ability to move our maintenance operations in a positive direction.

## **Water Testing Information:**

We test our water from designated residences around the island and submit the water samples for testing. The results are then forwarded to the Department of Health and to us. The testing results are located on our website under the Water System Tab. We keep 12 months of data on this site for the Communities access at any time. In 2016 all our tests met state standards. We are producing quality water for our owners!

## **Information Availability:**

Monthly water production information has been historically reported in the View Point. Since the beginning of 2017, the View Point has moved to a quarterly information source. In order to provide the Community more timely information, we will provide monthly water updates in a Community email format. The production numbers and costs are usually completed by the middle of the following month for State reporting purposes. This information will generally be provided at the monthly Board meetings and then posted in the above mentioned community email. If you have questions about our water system or would like to volunteer to assist with our water meter reading programs, please contact the

HICA office at: (360) 444-6611 or email Sandy Bettencourt, Island Manager at [hioffice@hatisland.com](mailto:hioffice@hatisland.com) or Chris Inman, Water Operator at [waterlab@hatisland.com](mailto:waterlab@hatisland.com).