



Skamania County PUD's News From the Wire

April– May 2013 Edition

Published Bi-Monthly

**PUD #1 of
Skamania County**

**PO Box 500
1492 Wind River
Hwy.
Carson WA 98610**

Office Hours:

8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

www.skamaniapud.com

Phone: 509-427-5126
Toll Free: 800-922-5329
Fax: 509-427-8416

Board of Commissioners

Meeting Schedule

9 a.m.

Tuesday 04/15/13
Monday 05/06/13
Monday 05/20/13
Monday 06/03/13
Monday 06/17/13

I am excited about my new role as General Manager at Skamania County PUD! It is an honor to serve the county in this capacity. I appreciate the warm welcome I've received from the PUD staff and crews. The employees impress me with their competence, professionalism and focus on customer service. I have found that the field crews feel personally accountable to provide safe and reliable utility service to your homes, schools and businesses. The office staff fosters an atmosphere where you can feel comfortable to call and get your questions and concerns answered.

As General Manager, my objective is to manage the PUD for quality and performance excellence. This includes three areas of focus:

- Being stakeholder centric – This means the PUD seeks to understand the needs of our stakeholders and works collaboratively with them to ensure balanced results for the whole. Our stakeholders include our customers who are also our owners, the community, our suppliers, the environment and our employees. Being stakeholder centric is more than sound business practice, it is our obligation as a public utility.
- Goal congruent – In the words of Patrick Henry, “United we stand, divided we fall.” I am currently working with the PUD Commissioners to develop a strategic plan for the PUD. With this direction from our governing body, the PUD staff and crews can align our goals and work practices to effectively fulfill the Board’s vision for the PUD.
- Continuous improvement – Humanity didn’t get from Alexander Graham Bell’s first telephone to our modern “smart” phones in one big step. Rather, it was through millions of small improvements coupled with some significant breakthroughs. Continuous improvement is a mindset and a culture – an attitude that there is always a better way.

As we incorporate these quality management principles into the PUD practice and culture, they will help us navigate the challenges we face now and in the future. You are feeling the impact of these challenges with recent rate increases. Volatile energy costs, aging infrastructure and a sluggish economy to name a few are difficulties that will influence PUD operations both short and long term. Skamania County PUD is committed to provide safe, reliable and cost effective utility service now and ensure these services are available to our community for generations to come.

I look forward to working with and for you!

Brent Bischoff



Spring is breaking and we are all anxious to enjoy some warmer weather. With that comes yard cleanup and landscaping projects of all sizes. Here are a couple of things to remember as you prune, landscape and plant trees and shrubs:



- Don't take chances cutting or trimming trees near the power lines! If you have any doubt, call the PUD. We will gladly consult with you to ensure you can complete your project safely.
- Look up when choosing a place to plant new trees. Plant tall growing trees well away from the power lines. The PUD must keep the power lines clear of vegetation to ensure public safety and reliable service.
- Meters and pad mount transformers (the big green box on the ground that hums) must be kept clear of obstructions so they can be read and maintained. Remember that as you landscape and plant shrubs.

Please call the PUD if you have utility related questions about your yard projects. We can ensure you get the details you need to be safe and ensure appropriate access to PUD equipment.

INSERT POWER POLES HERE (NOTE FOR PRINTERS)



Most of us don't remember the Columbia River without dams. And, with all the talk of wind and solar power we overlook and take for granted the value the dams add to our lives. Northwest River Partners recently started a media campaign to educate and remind us of the benefits we enjoy in the northwest because we have harnessed our rivers. Please visit cleanhydro.com.

News From the Wire

is an informational newsletter published by
Skamania County PUD for our customers.
Reader comments are welcome.

PUD Commissioners:

- District 3..... Clyde Leach, President
509-493-3380
District 2..... Curt Esch, Vice President
509-427-8591
District 1..... Dennis Gale, Secretary
360-837-3862

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Carson WA 98610

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