



NEWSLETTER

March 2023

Office hours: 10:30AM to 3:00PM

Monday through Friday

Other times by appointment

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WATER EMERGENCY CONTACT PROCEDURE

If you have a water pressure problem/emergency call the office number (503) 368-7309 and if no one answers, be sure to leave a message as the line might be in use when you call and will kick you over to messaging. If you don't reach anyone at the office, then call (503) 457-5146 and if no answer, also leave a message. You can also come to the office, 9155 Nehalem Rd. during regular hours, or by appointment.

DISTRICT BOARD MEETINGS WILL BE HELD VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH. Call the office to request an electronic invitation

NOTICE - PLEASE ADD OR UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS ON OUR WEBSITE SO WE CAN CONTACT YOU IN CASE OF EMERGENCY. nknwd.org

Notice from the Neahkahnie Water District Board of Commissioners

The Neahkahnie Water District Board of Commissioners has been faced with 2 major issues that will ultimately affect all of us in the NKN Water District (NWD).

1. **'Water Shed Protection Project' update:** This vital issue which was described in the January 2023 newsletter has not yet been finalized. To protect our water shed and prevent contamination of our springs, the Board of Commissioners condemned certain property in December 2020. As stated in the previous newsletter, after almost 2 years of litigation the district has settled with the owners of 'The Summit at Manzanita' to condemn the 71 acre property for \$1.75 million. The NWD is in the process of arranging financing for the purchase. Per Oregon law NWD will have to pay the owners' reasonable costs and attorney fees associated with the condemnation lawsuit. The amount of the owners' attorney fees is being investigated and negotiations will be pursued to see if further litigation over the fees can be avoided. In the end, \$1.75 million plus any costs and fees that the NWD is obligated to pay will be added to our bimonthly water bill as a system enhancement fee. When the condemnation is completed, the 71 acres will be the property of the NWD and will protect our water quality and resources in perpetuity.
2. **Water Rate Study:** The NWD hired a rate study analyst from the Oregon Association of Water Utilities (OAWU) to evaluate our current rate structure. The base rate structure has not been updated since 2006 but the costs of operating, maintenance and future capital improvements continue to increase. The NWD Board will be forced to raise rates to cover the costs that NWD is incurring continually. The base rate and costs will increase with a revised tier structure determined by the water usage per billing cycle. Also, short term rentals will be a separate base rate and tier structure and be classified as commercial. The idea of the rate structure changes is that those using the most water will pay the larger rates. The final proposed rate changes have not been completed by the Board of the NWD and then any change in rates must be approved in a public meeting.

The two major issues above will be described in much more detail at a public meeting that will be held once the terms have been finalized. The public meeting will be announced in advance and will be held in a public location.