

MWWD Mission Statement:

"The District is dedicated to providing excellent water and wastewater services, and fiscally responsible management of the resources of our ratepayers in an environmentally responsive manner."

Commissioners:

Jeff Clarke
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General Manager:

Dave Barnes

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Jeff Clarke
Commissioner

A Message from the President of the Board

Greetings from your water and wastewater District. The past three years have been a challenge for everyone—here

in Mukilteo, across the country, and around the world. The COVID pandemic hit harder and affected more parts of our lives than any of us thought possible. We seem to be emerging from it but are aware of the losses many people suffered and the changes it has made in your lives.

I want to thank the employees of our District for their efforts during this challenging time. While many people in the community were able to shift to working remotely, many of our staff are based "in the field," operating the wastewater treatment plant, maintaining pump stations and reservoirs, repairing service lines and main breaks, and making sure the water distribution and wastewater collection systems worked properly; while our Administrative staff provided customer service, processed payments, and paid the bills.

Throughout the pandemic your water never stopped coming to your homes, and there was never an issue with its safety. We developed safety protocols and split shifts to protect our staff's health and assure that the service would be uninterrupted. Water and sewer service are critical parts of a healthy community, and the Commissioners are proud of these efforts made by our staff.

While comparable results can be seen

elsewhere, it is not the case in every city and community. Recent news from Jackson, Mississippi demonstrates what can happen when basic utilities are not maintained properly. Storms put their water system out of commission, but it appears to have been a situation that was predictable and avoidable. Those circumstances are different from what we saw in Flint, Michigan some years ago, but the lesson is much the same: infrastructure is critical to a healthy, economically viable community, and pipes and pumps and facilities must be continuously maintained to prevent such crises.

Your Board recently acted to approve water and sewer rate increases to support the 2023 Budget and beyond. While we carefully considered issues of affordability, the greatest priority is to make sure the system continues to function reliably and without interruption. Proper investment today in maintenance and upgrades will reduce future costs.

Finally, I want to comment on the new General Manager we hired this year. Dave Barnes has lived in the Northwest for 30+ years and worked in the water and sewer field for over fifteen years. He has experience both in the field and as a talented personnel manager. He knows and works well with managers and staff from our partner agencies. Under his leadership, the Board is confident that you will continue to receive the services you expect.

Board of Commissioner meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month located at the District office at 5:00 p.m.

Maintaining Sewers While Minimizing Cost & Impacts

When you flush your toilet or run your faucet, the wastewater travels from your house through a pipe (sewer lateral) that is connected to a larger sewer pipe (sewer main) located deep within the street. Over time, these pipes age and require repair or total replacement to keep them in good working condition.

Traditionally, replacement of these pipes would involve digging a deep trench in the street, removing the old pipe, and replacing it with a new pipe. In many locations the pipes can be over 10 feet deep and the work involved to replace them requires large, heavy, and noisy equipment. The replacement also impacts traffic, impairs access to homes and businesses, and can take months to complete. Typical construction costs around \$600-\$700 per foot to complete.

In 2022, the District partnered with the Alderwood Water & Wastewater District (AWWD) and other surrounding agencies, to utilize a technology that allows those aging sewer pipes to be relined with a structural liner. The technology is called Ultraviolet Cure In Place Pipe (UV CIPP). UV CIPP consists of installing a fiberglass reinforced liner inside the existing sewer pipe and then running an ultraviolet

(UV) light train inside the new liner to “cure” it into place.

The liner is installed through existing access points (typically manholes) in the street and does not require excavation or digging down to the existing pipe. The only equipment needed is few large trucks and a portable air compressor. The impact to the customer is only several hours while the liner is placed, and the UV light-train cures the liner. The end product functions like new pipe and can be completed with far less impacts to customers. In addition, the cost to complete UV CIPP is under \$200 per foot to complete, that’s roughly 1/3 the price of conventional full replacement construction!

While the UV CIPP technology is not applicable to all the sewer pipes in our District, it is a great tool for maintaining much of our system at a lower cost and with less disruption to the customer. In 2022, we relined 1,585 feet of sewer pipe utilizing UV CIPP. In 2023, we plan to partner with AWWD again and UV CIPP approximately 1,300 feet of existing sewer pipe. Keep an eye out for this work this year!

WHEN TEMPERATURES STAY BELOW FREEZING:

- Give pipes a helping hand**
If pipes run through cabinets or vanities, open the doors to let warmer room temperatures flow in.
- Keep water working**
Keep water moving through the pipes by allowing a small trickle of water to run. The cost of the extra water is typically lower than the cost of repairing a broken pipe.

BUT IF YOUR PIPES DO FREEZE:

- Shut off the water immediately**
Don't attempt to thaw pipes without turning off the main shut-off valve.
- Thaw pipes with warm air**
You can melt the frozen water in the pipe by warming the air around it with a hair dryer or space heater. Be sure not to leave space heaters unattended and avoid the use of kerosene heaters or open flames.
- Be careful turning water back on**
Once pipes are thawed, slowly turn the water back on and check pipes and joints for any cracks or leaks that might have been caused by freezing.

New Water and Wastewater Rates for 2023

The District conducted a rate study in 2022 to make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on proposed water and wastewater rates over the next four years. Water and wastewater rates help pay for the day-to-day operating expenses such as purchased water, supplies, wages, and utilities as well as capital projects to maintain and replace the District's infrastructure.

Capital Projects

In 2022, the District replaced approximately 2,800 lineal feet of water pipe that was originally installed in the 1960's and plans to replace another 1,800 lineal feet in 2023. The District also upgraded one sewer lift station in 2022 and plans to upgrade another one in 2023. One of the more significant projects completed in 2022 was the replacement of the solids dewatering equipment at the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). This project had a very tight 21-day window to shut down and remove the old belt press and install a new rotary fan press; during this time the WWTF had to continue to treat incoming wastewater while storing the solids within the system until the project was completed.

Operating Expenses

Just like your home, the District is experiencing the impacts of inflation and supply chain issues. These outside influences are increasing the District's

expenses in construction costs, utilities, fuel, materials, wages and benefits, and insurance costs. Overall, the District's expenses are projected to increase by 6.8% in 2023.

Purchased Water

The District purchases all its water from the City of Everett, either directly or through the Alderwood Water & Wastewater District. Purchased water accounts for approximately 15% of the District's operating budget. The City of Everett and AWWD are experiencing the same inflationary cost increases which will increase our cost to purchase water by an estimated 8%.

New Rates beginning January 1, 2023

As Board President Clarke mentioned in his article on the first page, the District strives to balance the need to maintain our systems to continue to provide clean drinking water and treat wastewater to the required levels, while still keeping rates as affordable as possible. With this in mind, the Board approved increases of 6% on water rates and 4% on wastewater rates each year through 2026. The new rate schedule can be found on the District website, but for reference, the average household that uses 5,500 gallons of water per month, the bill would increase by \$4.77 a month in 2023.



Please Note:

STORM WATER

Stormwater fees are billed by Mukilteo Water and Wastewater District on behalf of the City of Mukilteo. The city provides stormwater services and establishes the rates that are charged for the services. MWWD bills and collects the fees, then remits the fees to the City per an existing agreement. Any questions regarding these charges should be directed to the City of Mukilteo at (425) 263-8000.