

Facilities Manager Report

Septic Update

BOD Meeting 04/27/18

After reporting to the State that a repair was completed, and our “A” field was operating normally, another issue developed. Ericson’s Excavating responded immediately with a crew to dig and identify the issue. It was not as serious as we thought and it has been resolved.

Our “A” field still has some serious operational issues, and I will not put it back into full, unsupervised service until it has been replaced. I am able to send small amounts of water to the “A” field manually, if needed, to take pressure off our little “B” field.

I have been **VERY** impressed by the response of the Community to prevent sending unnecessary water to our Meadow septic. I don’t yet have enough data to make accurate calculations of the gallons of sewage that we have reduced per day, but the water measurement in the “B” field inspection port has gone down by several inches, in just a couple of days. This is extraordinary. Some of this is due to our dry, warm weather, but most is due to what you have done to help and conserve.

Once I receive more pump data, I will be able to make accurate calculations of our positive impact. I will look at our records and calculate average sewer use based on weekly population. Not only will I see our overall reduction in sewage, I will also get a rough idea if everyone is taking this issue seriously and doing their part.

My role as Facilities Manager:

I am reporting to Washington DOH, as required by law, every failure and solution, while also trying to maintain the exceptional working relationship that we have developed with them over the years. Our weekly septic inspection, records and oversight exceeds the normal requirements of the State. It is very important that I continue to maintain their trust, even when things aren’t working as they should. This is why they are willing to work with us now as we get close to proposing a huge “repair”. We have exceeded their expectations in the past and they trust us to continue our exceptional management moving forward.

I am problem solving, looking forward, collecting data and am prepared to answer any question that the State or County may throw at us. Your current conservation efforts are truly key to

most of my answers, because it gives me concrete data to show how our Community can come together and do what is necessary to reduce the impact on our fragile system. It also shows that we are committed to do whatever is necessary to take great care of our new system.

I have greatly increased my inspections of our septic systems, but especially the Meadow, until I am comfortable that the system has reached homeostasis based on the weather and our current conservation efforts. If our efforts exceed what I feel is necessary, and they probably will at some point, I will let you know how to slowly add back normal water use.

I will not continue to inconvenience the Community if it is **truly** not necessary. You need to trust that if I ask you to do something, it is because it is truly important. For the time being, we need to continue to conserve and add as little water and tissue to our septic as possible.

As I stated in my last broadcast... this is nothing that we cannot overcome. Collecting every drop of water in a bucket is a pain, but it beats the alternative. Our "B" field continues to become healthier by the day, because of your efforts. It will sustain us, if we all continue to do our part.

Due to increased usage, cleaning of restrooms will be increased to twice a week. Please be patient while we fit this into our schedule.

Barb Gilger – Facilities Manager