

# Knappa Water Association

92755 Allen Road, OR 97103  
503-458-6461, kknappa@centurytel.net

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## 2020 Annual Report

This year brought four new and 28 transferred memberships (at time of press). We hope you will actively participate in **your Association**.

**KNAPPA'S WATER** is supplied by eight wells situated on state and private timber land south of Highway 30. There are three types of aquifers that produce ground water: confined, unconfined, and perched. *Unconfined* aquifers are supplied by surface run-off and are, generally, rather shallow wells subject to contamination. A *perched* water table is water that is trapped below ground by confining layers that surround or nearly surround the water. Think of a large underground tank. When tapped by a well, the water is drawn off but, in time, the wells fails because the tank goes dry.

KWA wells draw water from *confined* spaces. The wells are drilled through a confining layer—in this case, basalt. The wells are not surface water influenced and, therefore, more protected from contamination. We are required to test each well annually for coliform and E. coli bacteria and find none. The recharge zone, according to a geologist who helped KWA site wells, is probably up toward the head waters of Big Creek. Because the water travels several miles over a period of years before it reaches the wells, many of the contaminants have attached to soil particles and no longer pose a risk for human consumption. KWA water is considered medium hard because, during it's slow move to the wells where it is extracted, it picks up particles of chloride, iron, and manganese.

Typically, wells are not drilled into an underground river. Rather, as is the case with KWA, the wells are drawing water from pores in fractured basalt, sands, and gravels.

For a comprehensive report on KWA wells, you may stop by the office and ask to see the "Source Water Assessment Report" developed by Tom Pattee, registered geologist and project manager for Drinking Water Services, Oregon Health Authority.

**PROTECT OUR WATER FROM CONTAMINATION** Normally, Knappa Water flows from our system **to** your property. Under certain conditions water can flow **back from your property** into our main lines. This is called *back siphon-age* and may

We have had a few patrons experience odor in their homes' service lines. Several samples were taken from interior faucets, at both sides of the affected meter, and our water sources. Our Operations Manager is working diligently with our engineer to solve this issue and eliminate it. If you experience this problem, please contact us immediately with

occur due to loss of pressure in our main lines. Low pressure in a main can occur during line flushing, a break in a main, a system shut down, or when high amounts of water are being withdrawn to fight a fire. If a hose is submerged in a wading pool, hot tub, laundry sink, or livestock trough during a main line low pressure event, non-potable water could be siphoned back into the water mains. Here's how to protect our drinking water:

**DON'T** leave the end of a hose submerged in a bucket, pool, hot tub, laundry sink, livestock trough, etc.

**DON'T** use a hose-end spray attachment unless it has a built-in back flow prevention device.

**DON'T** use a hose to unplug a blocked toilet, sewers, etc.

**DO** read the label on radiator flush and fill kits to make sure they are properly equipped.

**DO** install vacuum breakers on all outside faucets.

Remember, your water tap or sink is actually the end of the water supply system and beginning of the sewer system.

Always maintain an air gap between the faucet and the sink. Back flow prevention devices, approved by the Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water Services, are required by law at any residence or business that poses a potential health hazard to our water system. Homes with hot tubs, pools, underground sprinkler systems, or livestock watering tanks are examples. If you have any questions, please contact our office.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS** We completed two new upgrades to our system, adding 500' of new eight-inch water main and a hydrant between Laurel Road and Hawthorn Road, and 300' and hydrant between Bagley Lane and Holly Lane. Both of these projects eliminated "dead ends" in our system.

**LEAK FINDER'S REWARD** We continue to offer a "Leak Finder's Reward" of \$50 to anyone who reports a leak on "our side of the meter".

**PERIODICALLY** patrons have experienced short-term discoloration in their water. This is usually caused when a hydrant on the main line serving the patron has been opened either for flushing main lines or fire department use, particularly in sections that are not being "looped" to another section of main, resulting in a dead end in the system. This discoloration is not contaminants, but natural sediments and should clear quite fairly quickly. We are making it a priority to install blow-off valves in such locations to help eliminate such occurrences during main line flushing.

the following information: What year was your home built? Have any "new" fixtures been installed or replaced? Is the issue throughout the home or isolated to specific fixtures? Does the odor come and go? Are there times when it gets better or worse?

Having this information will help our engineer and Operations Manager find a solution to the issue.

**WATER RATE & FEES** While we remain significantly lower in rates and fees than neighboring systems, we continue to boast an excellent system, improving our infrastructure as outlined in an engineered Master Plan, and operating without debt. Our water rate (last changed January 1, 2020) and fees:

- Water** (every 2 mos.): \$11.00, plus \$5.25/1000 gallons
- Late Fee:** \$35.00 (applied on the 25<sup>th</sup> after due date)
- New hook-up:** \$4385.00 (one time)
- Membership:** \$115.00 (one time)
- Membership Transfer fee:** \$50.00 (paid by buyer)
- Turn-on fee:** \$50 working hours; \$75 after hours/wknds
- NSF check fee:** \$35.00

**PAYING a WATER BILL** We read meters and issue water bills every two months (at the end of the even-numbered months). Payment is due the 10<sup>th</sup> of the following month. Please note, payment of a bill with a post-dated check is considered non-payment, and cannot be accepted.

Knappa Water is not responsible for missing or undelivered mail. If you do not receive your bill as scheduled above, please let us know. We will gladly send a duplicate to avoid missing a timely payment on your account.

**DEBIT/CREDIT PAYMENTS** We are pleased to announce that, in addition to cash, check or money order/cashier check, we can accept VISA and debit payments. Please note, there is a \$2.00 process fee-per-transaction added to the total charge.

**AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION.** . . . To minimize the risk of unexpected leak discovery, if you plan to be away for an extended period of time, we urge you to either: 1) turn your water off at the meter, or 2) designate someone to check on your home and property regularly.

**WHAT SHOULD I DO IF THERE IS A LEAK AT MY HOME?**

The homeowner is responsible for repairing and maintaining the water line between the meter and his/her home. First, make sure all the water is turned off inside and outside your home.

Look at the sweep hand or triangle located inside the water meter. If there is movement, water is going through the meter, indicating there is a leak somewhere in your water system.

One of the most common sources is the perpetually-running toilet. Put a few drops of food coloring in the tank then come back in an hour to see if any coloring has seeped into the bowl. If so, that's your culprit. Another spot to look at is for an outdoor faucet or hose left open.

Knappa Water Association responsibility ends at the customer side of the meter. If the meter or meter box are vandalized or accidentally damaged, please call us as soon as possible. Maintenance and repair of all piping from the meter to and in the house is the homeowner's responsibility.

**LEAK ADJUSTMENT POLICY** Knappa Water's leak adjustment consideration requires a "timely", written request. "Timely" would be defined as "upon discovery". Any qualified adjustment is made under policy criteria including the request for and prompt repair/confirmation of the leak. A copy of the policy is available at the Knappa Water office.

**RETIREMENT PLANNED** [Office Manager's note] "After 25 years with Knappa Water, I will be retiring in early 2021! It's been a spectacular experience serving our members and working with our Board of Directors. Leaving is hard, but it's time to pass the torch. I won't be far and, of course, available for a text message or phone call to help out, when needed. Thank you all so much."

**WHAT NUMBER(S) SHOULD I CALL IN CASE OF A WATER EMERGENCY?**

During regular business hours: 458-6461\*

After 6 p.m. weekdays & weekends: Chris Jackson, (503)741-1096 (cell)

\*Office hours have been Tuesday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-Noon, but may change in 2021. The *Operations Manager* works both out in the system and in the office 7 am.-3 p.m., Monday-Friday, and checks for messages throughout each weekday.

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** Members are welcome and encouraged to attend the Annual Membership Meeting Monday, January 11, 2020, 7:00 p.m. We will be approving the 2021 operating budget. Additionally, there will be an election to fill four Director positions.

You can now find and follow us on FaceBook.

We want to thank you for your support this past year. We're looking forward to a successful 2021!

Your 2020 Board of Directors and Staff:

Cullen Bangs, President  
Tad Pedersen, Vice President  
Mike Autio, Director  
Sam Patrick, Director  
*Byan Corkill*, Director

Devon Weaver Director  
James Davis, Director  
Chris Jackson, Operations Mgr  
Carol Bartlett, Office Mgr