

THE PIPELINE

Serving this community since 1943
Keeping Lakewood Water District Customers Informed
www.lakewoodwater.org

Board of Commissioners

Published by

Lakewood Water District

11900 Gravelly Lake Dr. SW
Lakewood, WA 98499



President

John Korsmo Jr.



Vice President

Greg Rediske



Secretary

Gary Barton



General Manager

Randall M. Black

Board of Commissioners meets the
3rd Thursday of each month at the
District Office at 3:30 PM

Public is welcome to attend



Celebrating 80 years!

Dear Lakewood Water District Customer,

It is double jeopardy time, and the category is "What makes a water commissioner say Yikes?" the answer is "*What is per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances.*" That is correct! Why? Because those innocuous sounding "substances" are costing us all a lot of money. By definition, these substances are "a group of synthetic organofluorine chemical compounds that have multiple fluorine atoms attached to an alkyl chain." They are getting a whole lot of press lately around the country and are commonly known as PFAS.

They have started to show up in our water supply because PFAS is a key ingredient of firefighting foam formerly used on JBLM. We have been out in front of this issue for a long time now and have installed two facilities to treat for PFAS. We have other wells shut down while we contemplate (and pay for) treatment or new wells. Lakewood Water has followed all Washington State Action Levels (SAL), and now the EPA is about to institute far stricter guidelines. As we get ready to go through the upcoming budget process, there will be challenges and sacrifices that will be facing your Board of Commissioners.

Under the proposed new rule from the EPA, our cost of capital projects goes from \$19.69 million to \$31.86 million over the next 7 years. The District must consider what the impact of the proposed final rule will have on our customers as we are managing multiple priorities for community investments to protect public health. Examples include compliance with the federal rule on lead, enhancing cybersecurity protections, and our continuous efforts to replace and maintain aging infrastructure to avoid the risk of water main breaks and other threats to public health.

The District has been successful at receiving grant monies, so far, we have received \$8.9 million, and additionally, low-interest loans, which have really helped reduce the financial impacts on you, our customers. We will continue to seek grant funds where available and low-interest loans as needed. Another tool to help offset the cost impact is a reduction of other capital projects where it doesn't negatively impact our commitment to safe, reliable, drinking water to our customers.

Lakewood Water has recently updated our Vision Statement:

Investing in our community to provide life-sustaining water now and into the future.

This is our vision and our promise to you, our customers. Safe and clean water is key, and we will do everything we can to mitigate the cost issues as we maintain our standing as the least expensive water in the area.

Sincerely,

Your Board of Commissioners



GOOD NEWS

PFAS is a costly expense and staff has been working hard to apply for funding to help keep rates low for our ratepayers. Thank you to Congresswoman Murray for the \$1.86 Million grant!

The District was selected to receive two low interest loans from Washington State Department of Commerce's Public Works Board to install GAC systems at the Country Place & 88th Pine wells to remove PFAS.



STORM DRAINS & LEAVES

Fall is a beautiful season with storms and dropping leaves that can clog the storm drains, preventing them from doing their job.

If you see any drains that need to be cleared, you can report them on the **MyLakewood311 mobile app**. If you do not have access to the MyLakewood311 mobile app, you can call the **City of Lakewood's** main line at 253-589-2489.

**Lakewood Water District is not responsible for clearing storm drains.*



MEET OUR NEW GENERAL MANAGER

The Lakewood Water District Board of Commissioner and General Manager Randall M. Black are pleased to announce that Marshall Meyer, PE has accepted the position of General Manager effective December 1, 2023. The last day for the current General Manager Randall M. Black will be February 28, 2024.

After a nationwide search, Lakewood Water District (LWD) interviewed five candidates and the top two attended a meet and greet with the Board of Commissioners and staff on August 16, 2023. After thoughtful discussions, the Board of Commissioners selected Marshall Meyer for the position of General Manager at their August 17, 2023, regular Board of Commissioner meeting.

Marshall Meyer has been the Engineering Manager for LWD since 2021. Before joining the District, Marshall worked as a consultant with the District since 2002, where he developed the District's comprehensive plan, rate study, treatment operations, and PFAS designs.



CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Lakewood Water District's (LWD) Customer Assistance Program (CAP) was started in 2014 to help customers with their bills. The program is run through Lakewood's Living Access Support Alliance (LASA). Ratepayers can contribute to CAP when paying their water bill.



Anyone can support the program throughout the year. In addition to this, every year the District hosts a raffle drawing the 1st week of May during Water Week. Anyone can enter to win items and prizes by purchasing raffle tickets from the office. In 2023 \$1,746 was raised from the raffle! We would like to thank everyone who participated, and we look forward to your continued support of the CAP program.



ONLINE BILL PAY

Looking for another fast and convenient way to pay your utility bills? Xpress Bill Pay's improved mobile app is now available for download from the Google Play and App Stores. Don't forget, you can also sign up for paperless billing! Scan the QR code below.



BUDGET UPDATE

The 2024 budget has officially started, and staff are working hard to keep rates low! The final budget will be voted on by the Board of Commissioners on December 21, 2023.



CONTACT US

Please update your mailing address, phone number, and email address if there have been any changes.

Please contact our office directly at 253-588-4423 or email csweb@lakewoodwater.org

Lakewood Water District

11900 Gravelly Lake Drive SW, Lakewood, WA 98499
Mon.- Thur. 8:00 AM-5:30 PM & Fri. 8:00 AM-4:30PM

