

QUARTERLY UPDATE



BOARD MEETINGS

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING
Wednesday, May 20
5pm

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET HEARING
Wednesday, June 17
5pm

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Wednesday, July 15
5pm

What's Happening in the District?

All District Board Meetings are hybrid, so the public can attend either in person or join the meeting virtually. Here's the link if you'd like to join in: <https://tinyurl.com/38vwthjd>

Meeting ID: 967 7718 1352
Passcode: 445347

Do you need assistance with our On-Line Bill Pay Service? Please contact us at 503-292-2777 or at customer.service@wswd.org

We're here to help you!

Check out our Water Quality Report at www.wswd.org

CONTACT US!

3105 SW 89th Ave.
503-292-2777

On the web at:
www.wswd.org

Email:
customer.service@wswd.org

Also, check the website for our newsletters, past and present.

www.wswd.org

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April to June 2026



Ken Ackerman, our new General Manager.

Meet our New General Manager

Beginning in April, the District welcomes a new General Manager, Ken Ackerman, P.E. He joins us from the Portland Water Bureau, where he served over the past year as Interim Chief Engineer.

Ken holds a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Alaska Anchorage and brings more than 34 years of experience working in the Portland area. Over the course of his career, he has contributed to a wide range of public infrastructure projects, with a strong emphasis on delivering work on time and within budget.

In the past eight years, Ken has specialized in drinking water systems, focusing on replacing aging infrastructure and strengthening emergency preparedness.

As General Manager, he aims to modernize the District's system to better withstand a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake or severe weather events—while maintaining affordability for ratepayers.

Budget Season

The District's annual budget serves as a financial roadmap for the upcoming fiscal year. It guides day-to-day operations, supports policy decisions, and helps turn the District's strategic goals into action. Our fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30.

Staff is currently finalizing the proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026. The proposed budget will be presented at a public meeting of the District's Budget Committee on May 20th. This ten-member advisory group includes the Board of Commissioners and an equal number of appointed community members. A key part of the Committee's role is to hear from interested citizens and consider community input during budget discussions.

As part of its review, the Budget Committee may make revisions to the proposed budget, as long as it remains balanced. Once the Committee is satisfied, it approves the budget and forwards it to the Board of Commissioners for adoption at the Budget Hearing on June 17.

Interested in learning more about how your water rate dollars support safe, reliable water and excellent customer service? Visit our website in early May to download and view the Proposed Budget and then join us in person at the District office or virtually via Zoom for our Budget Committee Meeting on May 20th at 5pm.

If you would like a paper copy of the budget or have any questions, please contact Wendy Irwin, our Finance Manager, at wirwin@wswd.org or 503-292-2777.

New Reservoir Planned

As part of its budget process, the District outlines capital improvement projects planned over the next ten years. The largest of these is the construction of a new 3.0-million-gallon reservoir at the Sylvan Hill property. The project is currently in the design and permitting phase, with construction anticipated to begin in 2028.

There are two existing reservoirs on the property: one built in 2009 that meets modern earthquake-resilient standards, and an older reservoir from 1961 that does not. The new reservoir will be earthquake resilient and will increase finished water storage capacity, helping the District better manage peak water demand and control wholesale water costs.



Reservoir #3, completed in 2009.



Reservoir #2, completed in 1961

| DEC - JAN | FEB - APRIL | MAY | JUNE | JULY - JUNE |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| Budget Kickoff Board approves budget committee and calendar, and appoints budget officer | Budget Preparation Staff prepares proposed budget | Budget Committee Meeting Committee deliberates, hears public comment and approves budget | Budget Hearing Board holds budget hearing, hears public comments and adopts budget | Budget Implementation Staff implements budget, monitors, and reports to Board; Board amends budget if needed |

Everyone Can Save Water Outdoors! Start watering wisely today with the Weekly Watering Number.

Here in the greater Portland metro area, we like to joke that summer officially begins July 5th. While summer weather may finally start then, we often start watering our yards much earlier. And, we keep on watering them until the fall rains begin.

That's where the Weekly Watering Number (WWN) comes in. [Sign up for the WWN](#) and we'll tell you when to start watering and how much to water each week through mid-October. We will also send you a seasonal smart watering tip to help you use water efficiently outdoors.



How to get started with the Weekly Watering Number

Before you can start using the WWN, you will need to take 15 minutes to [figure out how long it takes you to water one inch](#). Don't worry, this is a one-time thing! Once you have this information, you can use it to adjust the amount of water you give your landscape or garden throughout the irrigation season.

What many people don't know is that established plants (those that have been in the ground a year or two) usually don't need to be watered that early! It's best to hold off until warmer temperatures are more regular. So, don't be fooled by those first warm and dry spring days. Wait until the heat sets in and dries out our region's clay soil. In fact, spring can be a great time to conserve water!

How to use the Weekly Watering Number

The WWN is the amount of water in inches that your lawn will need each week (Thursday - Wednesday). See below for more information on how you can use the WWN for other types of plants.

The other key to watering efficiently is to adjust the amount you water as the weather changes. For example, we'll let you know if a rainstorm or heat wave means you should change how much you water. We also include weekly watering guidelines to help you understand the changes!



Can I use the Weekly Watering Number for other types of plants?

Yes! While the WWN is designed to be used for lawns, it can also be used for other types of plants with these general guidelines:

- **Lawns:** 100% of WWN
- **Shrubs and Perennials:** 50% of the WWN for established plants. Follow the watering instructions on plant tag or from your local garden center for new plants.
- **Vegetables:** 75% of the WWN (new starts may need more water)
- **Trees:** The WWN is not recommended for trees, but that doesn't mean that your trees don't need water during the summer! Newly planted trees need regular watering for up to the first couple of years. Established trees may need a deep soak or two in summer. Consult with staff at local nurseries or arborists for your tree's specific water needs.

Why does the Weekly Watering Number change each week?

The WWN changes with local weather conditions. So, in the cooler, wetter spring it tends to be lower. And, in the hotter, drier summer it tends to be higher.

What does my zip code have to do with this?

Sometimes weather is warmer, cooler, wetter or drier where you live than it is across town. We customize your WWN based on your specific zip code so that it is more accurate.

Where does the data for the Weekly Watering Number come from?

The Consortium contracts with a weather forecasting service to provide the data. This includes rainfall, evapotranspiration, and solar radiation, all needed to generate the WWN.

Why do you use historical data to create the Weekly Water Number?

We base the WWN on the previous week's weather (heat, rainfall, wind, etc.). It is meant to replace any moisture that your plant's soil lost the previous week.

