

Jim Campbell - Commitment to Excellence Award!

On February 13, 2024, the Thurston PUD Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution 24-07, nominating the PUD's Director of Field Operations, Jim Campbell, for a Washington State Department of Health (DOH) Office of Drinking Water 2024 Award. During the first full week in May, also known as Drinking Water Week, DOH announced that Jim was awarded the Commitment to Excellence Award. Please join us in celebrating him and his dedication to the water industry.



Jim Campbell,
Director of Field
Operations

Jim Campbell started in the water business in 2003 with the for-profit business H&R Water Works until joining Thurston PUD in 2017 as the PUD's Superintendent; he was later promoted to the Director of Field Operations. Jim is an incredible mentor, leader and hands-on operator. He holds a Water Distribution Manager II certification and successfully manages the operation of 276 water systems serving over 10,000 connections, and a population of 25,000 in six counties. At all times, day and night, holidays and weekends, he can be found in the field with his staff pulling and replacing failed system water pumps, fixing leaks, repairing broken chlorinators, or problem-solving complicated water system technical problems no one else can seem to figure out.

A few of Jim's significant achievements include:

- ◇ His leadership of 12 field staff members has immeasurably enhanced the morale, efficiency, and effectiveness of the field staff.
- ◇ He evaluated several water systems for acquisition by the PUD, consolidated multiple systems, and oversaw the transition of 1,850 customers from privately owned water systems to public ownership, a 18.5% growth. He facilitated the rescue of two small systems in danger of potential receivership.
- ◇ Jim initiated the PUD's capacity to do construction, geographic information systems (GIS), and pull pumps by adding heavy equipment including a vactor, a heavy-duty water pump pulling rig, an excavator, and ground penetrating radar. This has saved ratepayers hundreds of thousands of dollars.
- ◇ Jim implemented hydrant and valve maintenance, standardized variable-frequency drives, storage tanks and other equipment and initiated emergency management water tree construction and utilization, and seismic valve protection for large reservoirs.
- ◇ His incredible leadership in construction inspection, the request for proposal/request for quote process for meter system replacements, finalization of Group A systems metering, and an aggressive meter replacement program.

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Thurston PUD Commissioners

District 1

Linda Oosterman


District 2

Russell E. Olsen


District 3

Chris Stearns

Important Messages

 **2024 Conservation Programs are listed on Page 2.**

 **June is National Safety Month! Check out Page 3 for a "Sharing the Roads Safely" Crossword Puzzle!**

 **Completed Capital Improvement Projects in 2023— Review Page 4.**

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2024 Conservation Programs

Each year, Thurston PUD promotes water conservation by offering tools, resources, and rebates. This year, the PUD is offering the following:

Education on Irrigation Systems

→ Through newsletters, our website, and bill stuffers, we will send out Best Management Practices and information on current equipment available to help keep your lawn green while conserving water. Keep an eye out for future newsletter articles spotlighting this topic!

Irrigation Help Line

→ The Planning and Compliance Specialist, Blake Nylund, will take calls to help customers better understand their current system and ways they can conserve. If you have any questions about your irrigation, please call Blake at 360-357-8783 ext. 126.



Advanced Meter Program

→ Advanced, cellular meters are offered to customers that want direct access to their water consumption data. Customers are billed \$50.00 for the meter itself (valued at \$270), then an additional \$3.00 per month for the ongoing cost of the app. Customers will gain access to an online dashboard, accessible by computer or on a mobile device, to view consumption, leak alerts, or tips on conserving water.

For more information on the program options listed above, please visit the Conservation Program section on the PUD's website at www.thurstonpud.org/water-systems.htm. You may also contact our Customer Service Team by email at PUDCustomerService@thurstonpud.org, by phone at (360) 357-8783, or toll-free at (866) 357-8783.

Facts about Summertime Water Use and Overwatering

- 29 billion gallons of water are used daily in households across the U.S.
- Of this amount, nine billion gallons can be attributed to residential, outdoor water use, mainly for landscape irrigation.
- Depending on the region, homeowners use between 30 and 70 percent of their water outdoors.
- Experts estimate that 50 percent of the water we use outdoors goes to waste from evaporation, wind, or runoff due to overwatering.
- Review your water bills and compare your winter water use with your summer use to get a sense of how much extra water you use outdoors when it's hot.



Source: United States Environmental Protection Agency

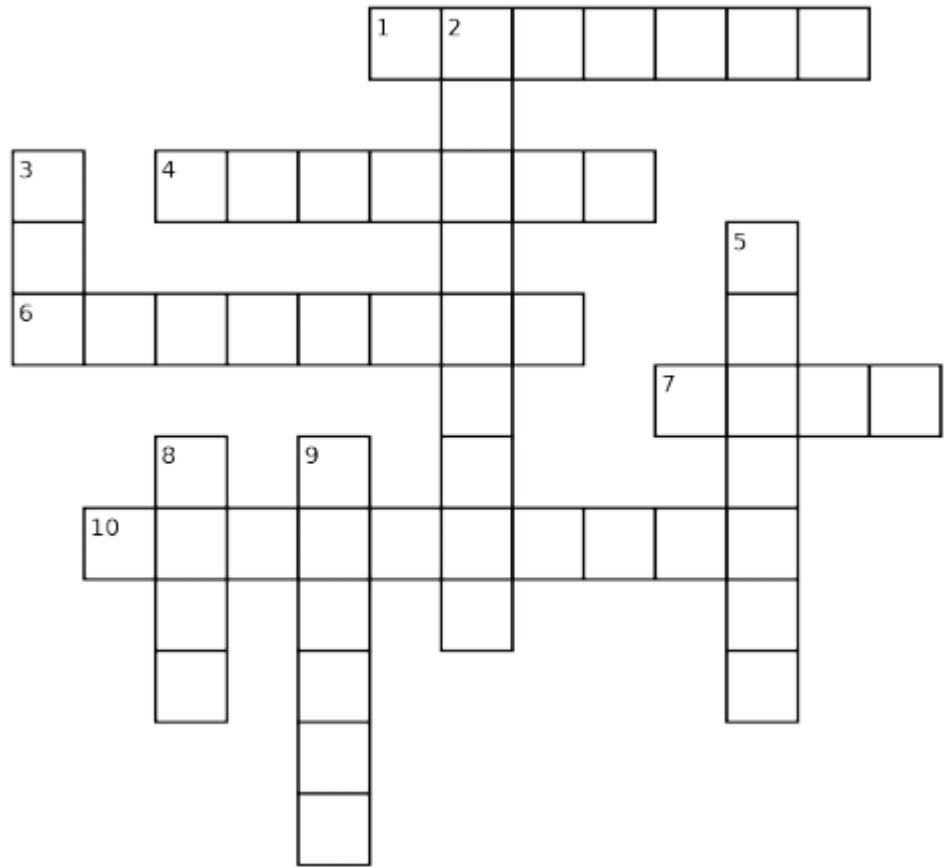
National Safety Month—“Sharing the Roads Safely” Crossword Puzzle

Down:

2. Most states have move over laws for _____ and hazard vehicles—you must move over or slow down and give them space.
3. Do not pass a school _____ with flashing red lights or an extended stop arm.
5. Be _____ around bicyclists; give them their space and pass with care.
8. Larger vehicles need more _____ to make turns.
9. The larger the vehicle and the higher the speed, the _____ it takes for it to stop.

Across:

1. Bicyclists usually have the same rights and responsibilities as any motor _____.
4. Highway work zone sites can be a challenge to _____.
6. Use the “what-if” _____ when driving near motorcyclists.
7. If the amber lights on a school bus are flashing, the bus is about to _____.
10. Use a safe following distance when behind a _____.

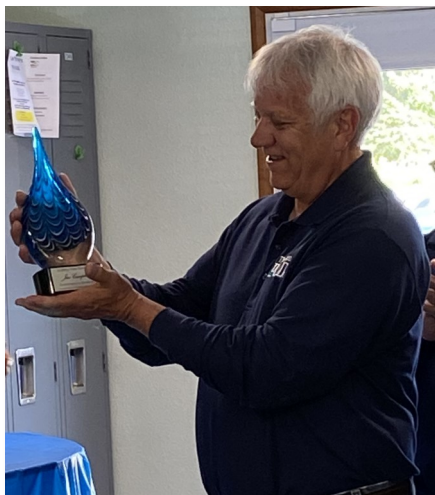


Answer Key:
Across 1-vehicle, 4-drivers, 6-strategy, 7-stop, 10-motorcycle
Down 2-emergency, 3-bus, 5-patient, 8-room, 9-longer

National Safety Council | nsc.org

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Jim Campbell - Commitment to Excellence Award! (Continued from Page 1)



Jim Campbell receiving the DOH Washington State Commitment to Excellence Award

- ◇ At the Packwood water system, Timberline Village, Jim significantly improved leak loss through aggressive leak detection and water main repair. He installed zone meters and fully metered the water system.
- ◇ Jim emphasizes water conservation programs, promoted green energy by installing a solar water pump and evaluated several water systems for solar power installation. Under his direction, a team of PUD field technicians continuously conducts leak detection and system repair. A radio emergency communication system and emergency operations center radio communications with Thurston and Pierce Counties was initiated. Water conservation and efficiency surveys of home irrigation systems were initiated to facilitate water efficiency and the value of using a “smart” meter to track their water usage.

Jim Campbell is a tireless public servant, and one of the finest coaches, mentors, and trainers at the PUD. His dedication and commitment are second to none. He has extensively helped educate and mentor others in the water industry and assisted smaller water systems. Jim lends his knowledge, skill, and abilities throughout the drinking water community.

2023 Capital Improvement Projects

In prior newsletters, we've highlighted the importance of infrastructure investments and capital improvement program (CIP) projects that are funded in part by capital surcharges, per the PUD's Asset Management Plan (AMP). Our staff strives to provide up-to-date information on these projects to help customers better understand the work needed to keep safe drinking water flowing. To help answer some of the most frequently-asked questions about replacements, the AMP, and the CIP, a list of this information has been compiled below for your review.

What is an Asset Management Plan?

An Asset Management Plan (AMP) is a financial planning tool we use when water system components will reach the end of their life cycles. We predict costs which helps us determine how much we need to budget each year. Staff has created an AMP for each of the 276 water systems owned and operated by the PUD.

What is a Capital Improvement?

A capital improvement is a permanent structural change, addition, or alteration to infrastructure that adds to the value of the infrastructure or prolongs its useful life.

What is the Capital Surcharge? Why is it charged?

The Capital Surcharge is a financial tool used to help fund infrastructure replacements and capital improvements based on a water system's Asset Management Plan (AMP). Capital surcharges are used to help fund system replacements at the end of an asset's life cycle. The capital surcharge is paid by all PUD customers and infrastructure replacement costs are shared by all PUD customers. This means if your water system has a component failure, the cost is covered through your rates and capital surcharges.

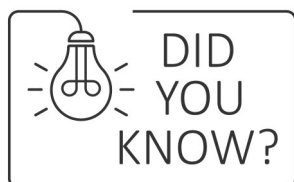
What capital projects or improvements does my system need?

As stated previously, the PUD has created an AMP for each of the PUD's 276 water systems. Based on a water system's AMP, we projected and budgeted several CIP projects for 2023. You can find the current year's Capital Budget on our website at www.thurstonpud.org/our-rates.htm.

Below is a summary of capital improvement projects that were completed through December 2023.

Asset Management Plan (AMP) Work Completed in 2023	
Description	Cost
Pumphouse	\$ 217,850
Treatment Replacement/Upgrades	\$ 32,742
Pressure Tanks	\$ 13,134
System Upgrades	\$ 95,959
Electrical Replacements	\$ 79,525
Service/Source Meters	\$ 58,606
Pump Replacements	\$ 94,178
Total	\$ 591,995

For more information on your specific water system and its AMP, please contact our office at (360) 357-8783, toll-free at (866) 357-8783, or via email at PUDCustomerService@thurstonpud.org.



According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, replacing a clock-based irrigation controller with a WaterSense-labeled irrigation controller can reduce an average home's irrigation water use by up to 30 percent and can save an average home up to 15,000 gallons of water annually. (Source: <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/statistics-and-facts>)