

# PUD CUSTOMER CONDUIT

Public Power, Local Services, Community Connections

Jefferson County PUD's Monthly Newsletter, May 2018

## Meet Larry Dunbar, New General Manager



Larry Dunbar's first official day as General Manager was Monday, April 23rd, but he'd already been working on a number of projects before arriving.

He led a first round of interviews for the PUD's Chief Financial Officer on April 6th, before and after the PUD's 5th Anniversary Party. And he met regularly with the PUD Commissioners and key staff members before occupying his office at 310 Four Corners Road.

"I wanted to hit the ground running," said Dunbar. "And hiring the new CFO is critical as Tammy Lehman, our Interim CFO, is moving on in June.

Dunbar comes with experience. He's

worked in the utility business for 37 years, and brings with him lessons learned from multiple organizations.

He began his career as an Energy Advisor for the Snohomish PUD before moving over to Richland where he spent 18 years as Resource Manager. From 2000-2012, he worked for the City of Port Angeles first as Power Resources Manager and finally as Deputy Director of Public Works and Utilities. He then served as Energy Services Director for the City of Ellensburg.

His broad background is part of what won him the job. Dunbar has managed nearly every kind of utility service: water, sewer, electric, telecom, even waste management.

What will he tackle first at the PUD? Dunbar says he's meeting with commissioners and staff to determine what projects take priority.

"The overall goal is always to incrementally provide safer, more reliable and affordable utility services," said Dunbar.

"After that, whatever we do, in whichever order we do it, needs to pencil out financially and the process needs to be transparent. This is a public utility, and I have no desire to spring any surprises on anyone. I want to keep our customers informed and engaged."

Dunbar is very happy to be back on the Olympic Peninsula. "The quality of life here can't be beat. I really like small towns. I really don't like long lines and traffic jams. I love camping and boating. All of my kids graduated from Sequim High School. There's a bit of a feeling of coming home."

Though his schedule is pretty full for the foreseeable future, Dunbar looks forward to meeting more customers. He noted that while he might not be able to answer calls immediately, he will call back anyone who leaves a message. And he is happy to schedule appointments to

"When you flip the light switch and it doesn't come on for whatever reason, that's when you think of the PUD. Now I want you to think of the PUD when it's on."

-Larry Dunbar in the PDN

meet with anyone who has questions or concerns they'd like to share. "Or even if they just want to meet and say hello."

Dunbar also looks forward to connecting with local community service organizations after he gets a little better settled in.

Larry Dunbar can be reached by phone at (360)385-8340, or email him: ldunbar@jeffpud.org.

## WATER RATE INCREASE BEGINS THIS MONTH

On April 17th, the PUD Board of Commissioners approved rate changes for all PUD water customers.

The new rates are effective for all bills rendered on or after May 1, 2018.

Residential water customers will see an increase of \$4.15 to their monthly base

of fee and a \$0.05 per 100 gallon increase to consumption under 5000 gallons per month. Qualifying low income customers are eligible for a \$10 discount on their residential base fee. Commercial base rates vary by meter size, go to our website to see the full listing of base charges per meter size (from 3/4" to 8").

Residential	Previous	New	Commercial	Previous	New
Base	\$21.50	\$25.65	Base (1"meter)	\$54.00	\$61.40
Consumption 0-5000 Gal.	\$0.26	\$0.29	Consumption 0-5000 Gal.	\$0.35	\$0.40
Consumption 5001-10,000	\$0.36	\$0.40	Consumption 0-5000 Gal.	\$0.36	\$0.40
Consumption 10,000+	\$0.49	0.54	Consumption 10,000+	\$0.36	\$0.40

Sewer rates have not changed at this time, though staff is still exploring adjustments and plan to present them to the board in May or June.

## CALENDAR

**May 1st, 5pm**  
Regular Board Meeting  
Jefferson Transit Board Room

**May 14th, 2pm**  
Citizen's Advisory Board  
PUD 4 Corners Meeting Room

**May 15th, 5pm**  
Regular Board Meeting  
Jefferson Transit Board Room

**June 5th, 5pm**  
Regular Board Meeting  
Jefferson Transit Board Room

*Regular board meetings take place at 5pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Agendas & minutes are available on our website.*

# IN MEMORIAM: BOB PHILLIPS, SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR

Jefferson County Public Utility District #1 lost one of its longest serving employees in April.

Robert Phillips, Special Projects Coordinator, was returning to the PUD's Four Corners Operations Center after checking on projects around the county when his PUD issued utility truck drifted from Highway 20 and struck a tree. Phillips died at the scene.

Phillips, or Bob as he was known to friends and coworkers, began working for the PUD in 2005. He performed a wide variety of duties: starting with customer service and purchasing and moving on to managing tree trimming, easements, right of ways, as well as supporting permitting and construction.

"Bob wore so many hats," said Asst. General Manager Kevin Streett. "I worked with Bob from the very beginning of my time here at the PUD and he will be sorely missed. He was instrumental to the transition of adding the electrical utility."

"Bob lived a very full life," said



Casey Finedell, GIS Specialist. "He had great stories. He'd even been the mayor of a small town in Colorado. It's going to take some time for all of us to process his loss."

Human Resources Manager Debbie Lund stated that this is the first time the PUD has lost an employee on the job. "Bob was very well liked, and his loss has affected our employees deeply. We're doing our best to work through. Our sympathies go to his family."

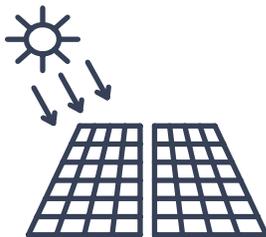
## SUBSTATION DEDICATED TO DANA ROBERTS

The Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to rename the Kearney Substation after former commissioner Dana Roberts. Roberts was an early booster of public power and served on the PUD board from 2002 until his death in 2009. A former utilities regulator in New York State,

Roberts was instrumental to helping the PUD in its early negotiations to acquire the electrical grid from PSE. He was also gregarious and well-liked by his fellow commissioners, constituents, and associates. An official dedication ceremony will be held on site at the substation later this summer.

## PUD EXPLORES COMMUNITY SOLAR PROJECT

The PUD is looking into putting up a 100kW ground mounted community solar array next to the Dana Roberts Substation later this summer. The project is estimated to generate over 2.8 million kWh over its lifetime. Dana was a big



advocate of solar and public power. If you are interested in learning more about community solar or want to take part in this potential project, go to our website to read more. And take the community solar survey. We'd like to hear from you.

## NEW CONSTRUCTION CONDUIT MANDATE

At their April 2nd regular meeting, the Board of Commissioners authorized the PUD to mandate the installation of an additional conduit, not less than 1 1/2" in diameter, for communications purposes in all new electrical service construction projects.

According to PUD Senior Engineer Jimmy Scarborough, the conduit can be used for a number of different services:

phone, internet, cable, etc.

Why the mandate? "People get so focused on the basics- power, water, sewer or septic- that they forget to plan for communications when building," said Scarborough.

"The cost of putting in conduit is fairly insignificant, trenching up the yard later on is expensive. We want customers to plan for infrastructure up front."

## PUD Commissioners Column The Next 5 Years of Public Power

### Jeff Randall, District 1

Over the next 5 years I would like our PUD to make the necessary investments to assure our electrical, water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure is available and reliable for our customers. I would like our PUD to continue to focus on financial sustainability (more clean audits and balanced budgets) and avoid taking on new debt while keeping our electric rates close to PSE's. I would like us to develop a community solar program, with at least the first project completed adjacent to the Dana Roberts Substation and more to follow on our county's public school properties.



### Ken Collins, District 2

I would like to see JPUD accomplish the following three goals over the next five years: 1) expand the fiber optic cable network to reach rural areas where current broadband service is poor to nonexistent; 2) prepare JPUD for future demands on the system, such as increased load due to more electric vehicles and the need for greater systemic resiliency; 3) explore options to incentivize customers to switch from heating their homes with carbon-emitting fuels like wood, oil or propane, to clean, efficient electric power.



### Wayne King, District 3

We need to get more proactive and be less reactive during the next five years. We still have a long way to go to educate the public on all the services and benefits this PUD provides. I'd like to see a lot more people sign up for Smart Hub, our paperless billing system. But to allow the customer to get the full advantage of that product, we also need new meters. My other priority is getting all the PUD staff onto one site, at our Four Corners location, and into a usable office that is efficient instead of employees chasing each other across the county to talk to each other in the multiple offices we have now.



email: [commissioners@jeffpud.org](mailto:commissioners@jeffpud.org)