

SERVING THE
WEST SLOPE
NEIGHBORHOOD
SINCE 1922

Upcoming Meetings

- Board of Commissioners
Virtual Meeting; 5 PM
Wednesday, August 18
- Board of Commissioners
Virtual Meeting; 5 PM,
Wednesday, September
15
- Board of Commissioners
Virtual Meeting; 5 PM,
Wednesday, October 20

What's Happening in the District?

Our door is once again open for masked customers to walk in and pay bills and request service. District Board meetings will remain virtual meetings through the summer at least. Thank you for your patience and welcome back !!

Contact Us !

3105 SW 89th Ave.
(503) 292-2777

On the web at:
www.wswd.org

Email: customer.service@wswd.org

Please share with us what you think of the newsletter and its effectiveness to provide information to you ... we want to hear from you! Call us and leave a message or send an email.



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July-September 2021

How Do I Shut My Water Off If I Need It Off?

When working on plumbing in your home and you need to have the water shut off to make repairs, replace pipe, or extend your home plumbing for new fixtures, how do you shut your water off? Most homes built since the 1940s will have a shut off valve near where the water pipe enters your home. Sometimes the valve is located on the outside of the house in a small vault near the home's foundation. Sometimes the valve is located inside the home next to a wall (it could be in a closet or recessed enclosure in your drywall/sheetrock like in the photo to the right). And sometimes the valve is located under the home's flooring in a narrow crawlspace. It is always a great idea to know where your home's shut off valve is located in case you need to use it quickly ... AND ... to keep a clear access to the valve. But what if you don't know where that valve is or do not have one? You suspect the shut off valve is outside somewhere or maybe under your home, but you have

no idea where, and you don't have time to look up and contact a leak detection company because you have water spraying in your new bathroom. What can you do? The **best** answer is Call West Slope Water District. Under most circumstances during regular business hours, the District's field operations staff can respond to



a request to turn off water at your home very quickly. The District will use special tools to turn your water off close to the water meter ... and we will do it at no additional charge to you. If you need the water turned off in the evening or on weekends

and holidays, it will take the District more time to respond but we WILL respond. Please call us at 503-292-2777 to request your water to be shut off. In contrast, a **bad** idea is to try to shut the water off at the water meter yourself. Since special tools and knowledge are needed to know the proper manner to shut the water off at the meter, we ask that you do NOT attempt to use the meter valve to shut off your water as it is relatively easy to damage the District's infrastructure. If that happens, we have to replace the meter infrastructure at the customer's expense, and the cost can easily exceed \$1000. So, take some time now to locate YOUR shut off valve next to or inside your home, and keep our number handy in case you need the District to shut off your water for you. We are ready to serve our customers when you need some help.

Welcome New Commissioners to the Board !!



Board! They replace Charles Conrad and Michael Hoffman on the Board who both served the District as Commissioners for 11 years and 6 years, respectively. Thank you all for your service!

In May 2021, Ramesh Krishnamurthy and Susan Meamber were elected to the Board of Commissioners, and their four-year term began July 1, 2021. Mr. Krishnamurthy has extensive volunteer public service experience outside of the District, and Ms. Meamber brings a strong public utility experience to the Board. Both new Commissioners have served for the last few years on the District's Budget Committee. The District welcomes both Mr. Krishnamurthy and Ms. Meamber to the

Our Mission is to provide safe, clean, reliable water for customer use and fire suppression

Oregon is experiencing a significantly dry year in 2021, and as a result, over **94% of the state** is facing severe or extreme drought conditions. Typical rains in March, April, and May did not arrive this year, and combined with warmer weather during those months and a “surface of the Sun” scorching heat stretch since June, the area’s rivers are low, grasses and plants are dry, and the surface soils have lost their moisture.

So, in the face of a significant statewide drought, what should our response be? The answer is simple: **Use Our Water Wisely and Efficiently.** West Slope Water District’s water is not directly impacted by the drought. The City of Portland supplies all of the District’s water, and because the Bull Run Watershed received a significant rainfall and snowpack through the winter months, the City was able to reach full storage capacity in the watershed this spring. In addition, the City maintains the Columbia South Shore Wellfield as a backup/auxiliary supply during drought periods. Because of the excellent planning efforts by the City as our wholesale water supplier, the District is positioned to serve clean, safe, high quality drinking water to customers throughout the summer. So, why write this article?

West Slope customers are smart, mindful stewards of natural resources like drinking water. While the District has no current plans to restrict water use during the summer, all District customers are **highly encouraged** to be water efficient this summer. Please consider the following tips in your home:



Outdoor:

- Water what is needed for your lawn ... never overwater it. Sign up for the **Regional Water Providers Consortium “Weekly Watering Guide”** for the amount of water needed each week
- Inspect your irrigation system and sprinklers for leaks regularly and repair leaks and breaks as soon as possible
- Consider watering between 8 PM and 6 AM to avoid losing water during the day to evaporation
- Use a commercial car wash to keep your car clean or consider washing your car in the front lawn instead of the street or driveway

Indoor:

- Make sure your faucets and fixtures are leak and drip-free ... repair leaks and drips as soon as possible
- Run full dishwasher and clothes washer loads
- When replacing toilets and other water appliances, be sure to look for the **WaterSense** labels signifying water efficient products