



**Annual Meeting**  
**Wednesday Nov. 1, 6:30 - 8:00 pm**

**Polk County Courthouse 850 Main St.**  
**(use east entrance on Jefferson St.)**

**“Our Growing Population and  
Shrinking Water Supply”**

This year we will be meeting in person. Please join us for a panel discussion on Oregon’s water supplies. Statewide and locally there has been increased concern about balancing limited water supply to best meet our needs. Our primary focus will be on domestic water supplies because land use for residential development requires a source of potable water.

Our speakers will be:

**Harmony Burright**, Joint Legislative Water Caucus, formerly OR Dept. of Water Resources

**Austin McGuigan**, Polk County Planning Director, and

**Danny Jaffer**, Luckiamute Domestic Water Cooperative

In this issue of the newsletter, we provide several background articles that address current and projected needs for both municipal and rural water supplies.

**Willamette Basin 5 Year Work Plan**

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has 13 dams in the Willamette Basin which historically have been for flood control in heavy rainy periods, for recreation and more recently for fish survival in dry summer and fall times. The dams also generate enough electricity for about 300,000 homes.

With an ever-growing population and increasing demands on a limited water supply the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) has started the Willamette Reallocation Study. This study will look at how we can access water stored in USACE reservoirs to meet the needs of growing communities, industry (including agriculture) and fish and other wildlife.

When there is not enough water for all, how do we allocate and to which uses? The reallocation plan will pursue solutions that balance both in-stream and out-of-stream water needs, keep stakeholders informed and provide opportunities for engagement, and maintain transparency and provide regular progress updates.

Allocations are planned as follows:

69% - fish and wildlife

21% - irrigation

10% - municipal and industrial

The full report is available via OWRD  
[https://www.oregon.gov/owrd/WRDPublications/1/willamette\\_basin\\_workplan.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/owrd/WRDPublications/1/willamette_basin_workplan.pdf)

**Officers and Board Members**

- President - Sarah Deumling (503 585-6380)
- Vice-President - Suzanne Reingans (503 586-4324)
- Treasurer – Pat Wheeler (503 838-1436)
- Secretary – Marti Sohn (503 428-3399)
- Board Members
  - Kelly Gordon (503 838-2337)
  - Thron Riley (503 363-1546)
  - Karen Lippsmeyer (503 949-5138)

**Winter Calendar**

Oct 31 Membership Renewal & Ballots Due

**Board Meetings – TBD**

We have resumed in-person board meetings at the Monmouth Library meeting room. Although we do not have a definite schedule, we plan to meet at least quarterly during 2024 and more often as needed. All of our meetings are open to the public. Please contact Pat Wheeler if you would like to be on the email notification list for board meetings.

<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
Annual Meeting November .....	1
Willamette Basin Water Review.....	1
Officers and Board Members .....	2
Legislative Water Caucus .....	2
Membership Renewal & Ballot (insert)	
Municipal and Rural Water Providers.....	3
Proposed Youth Camp.....	4

**Oregon Legislative Joint Water Caucus**

The Joint Water Caucus is a two-chambered, bipartisan group which supports the work of the House Agriculture, Land Use and Water committee. Its leaders are:

- Rep. Ken Helm (D HD 27, Beaverton & Cedar Hills)
- Rep. Mark Owens (R HD 60, E & SE Oregon)
- Sen. Kate Lieber (D SD 14, SW Portland & Beaverton)
- Sen. Lynn Finley (R SD 30, E & SE Oregon)

Harmony Burrigh, water policy advisor to Rep. Mark Owens, is also the Chief of Staff of the Joint Water Caucus. She coordinates informational hearings on timely water issues in various regions of the state.

Late in the unusual 2023 session the Joint Water Caucus helped facilitate the combining of several water related bills into **HB 2010 - The Drought Relief and Water Security budget package and Omnibus Bill**. This “water package” advances key water policies in the state and invests more than \$170 million in state water priorities. It also successfully shepherded a policy to create a permanent funding program to support place-based integrated water resources planning - The Community Drinking Water Fund for Enhancement and Protection.

The 2023 “Water Package” is a huge bill covering a wide range of policy topics as well as a very large geographical area. Perhaps of interest to some Polk County folks are the following components: Drinking water security; Drinking water source protection; Small community water system vulnerability and support; Agricultural resilience and food security (Small grants to farmers are particularly impactful, leveraging farmers’ expertise and knowledge of their specific operational needs); Systematic tracking of drought impacts on ag producers; Aquifer recharge, storage and recovery. At our annual meeting **Harmony Burrigh** will summarize recent legislation.

### Polk County's Municipal Water Providers

Last year Polk County posted the report prepared by GSI Water Solutions on projected needs for domestic water. This analysis indicated where to expect water shortages over the next 50 years. The reason for looking this far in advance is to allow time to secure water rights and funding necessary to fill the water demand. The largest deficits are reported for our three largest urban areas Dallas, Independence and Monmouth which total 12.74 million gallons/day (mgd).

	<u>2022-2072 Increase in Population</u>	<u>Current Water Capacity (mgd)</u>	<u>Projected Water Deficit (mgd)</u>
Dallas	18,200 to 43,701	8.00	6.18
Independence	9,960 to 34,140	3.03	3.64
Monmouth	10,500 to 22,200	2.92	2.85

Dallas is looking into expanding their storage capacity to meet their needs. Monmouth and Independence are considering utilizing their Willamette River rights to supplement their diminishing ground water capacity. Use of Willamette River water would entail construction of a water treatment facility. Estimated costs would be \$126 million dollars. At our annual meeting on November 1, **Austin McGuigan** will give an update of the current status of planning for this regional water project. See the Polk County webpage to see the 2022 Water Reports.

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### Water Providers in Rural Polk County

There are six major water associations serving rural Polk County: Buell-Red Prairie, Grande Ronde, Luckiamute, Perrydale, Rickreall and Rock Creek. Some of these associations use exclusively groundwater and several use a combination of ground and surface water.

The projected increase in populations served by four of these associations increases by 12,250 residents. However, only the Perrydale Water Association is expected to face a significant water shortage in the next 50 years. No population increases are expected for Buell-Red Prairie or Rock Creek.

	<u>2022-2072 Increase in Population</u>	<u>Current Water Capacity (mgd)</u>	<u>Projected Water Deficit (mgd)</u>
Grand Ronde	2,500 to 3,100	0.44	0.11
Luckiamute	2,900 to 6,900	0.52	none
Perrydale	2,800 to 11,200	2.39	1.91
Rickreall	1,750 to 3,000	0.93	0.02

At our annual meeting **Danny Jaffer** will discuss details of the Luckiamute Domestic Water Cooperative water supply, distribution infrastructure and projected needs.

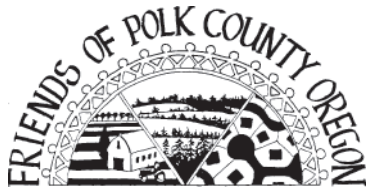
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## 2023 Land Use Applications – Proposed Youth Camp near Gold Creek

Our board members continue to review land use applications with a focus on appropriate uses within Polk County’s farm and forest zones. During 2023, an application for a Youth Camp in a forested region near Gold Creek came to our attention. The neighboring property owners struggled to get county and state agencies to stop unlawful activity that was being pursued without appropriate permits. Friends of Polk County submitted written comments in opposition to the proposed youth camp noting the following deficiencies:

- the property was clear-cut and not successfully replanted so does not qualify as a “forested setting”
- inadequate forest vegetation around perimeter to provide a buffer for visual and audible impacts on neighboring properties
- inadequate analysis for a septic system suitable for 350 camp participants
- no evidence of adequate water availability for 350 camp participants
- missing permits for floodplain development
- missing management plan for limiting conflicts with wildlife (elk habitat)

Currently, the county has noted that the application is incomplete and cannot be reviewed until the missing information and permits have been provided. We will continue to monitor the application if it moves forward.



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