HOLMES HARBOR WATER CO., INC

Hello Holmes Harbor Neighbors!

2018 has been a busy year for the Holmes Harbor Water Company.

Our biggest project continues to be replacement of our aging distribution system. In 2017, we applied for and won a combination grant and loan from the US Department of Agriculture to replace the water supply pipe throughout our community. In 2018, we submitted, revised, resubmitted, updated, clarified and finally received approval of our applications for permits from the many agencies with jurisdiction over rural water systems, wetlands, cultural resources, and all other aspects of the project. In November 2018, we received the last approval that we needed to move forward. As I write this (end of December), we are waiting for the final engineering plans from our contractor, Davido Consulting Group, for submission to the USDA. USDA engineers will review the project before it goes out to bid and a construction contractor is selected. Our interim construction loan has been approved by Heritage/Whidbey Island Bank, and we have consolidated all of our banking there. We anticipate that construction will begin in the spring of 2019.

The pump house addition to house the new larger pump manifold, begun in 2017, is nearly complete thanks to many volunteers and especially to Cyndy King, who masterminded the project, sourced materials, coordinated volunteers, and put in many, many hours at the pump house. Thanks, Cyndy! We still need to complete electrical work for the addition and install the concrete floor, with expected completion early in 2019.

One of the USDA loan/grant requirements is a Vulnerability Assessment/Emergency Response Plan for the water system. The Great Power Outage of December 2018 demonstrated that we need to expand certain aspects of the plan to ANY emergency situation in the community. Most importantly, we need a way to contact community members quickly with emergency information and instructions. We will be working with the GBBC board to establish a phone and email/text notification system, and we’ll be asking property owners and renters for contact information to help keep everyone in the community safe.

Another important project for both boards is updating the Holmes Harbor Estates covenants. The covenants in effect now were adopted in 1964. Almost ten years ago, the boards did an enormous amount of work to update these but the effort was postponed due to other pressing issues before the community. It’s past time to complete this task! In 2019 we will convene a committee of board and community members to review the original covenants and the 2009 proposals, and develop new covenants for a vote by all community members.

Many thanks to board members David Paull, Cyndy King, Sharon Dunn, Ray Thorne and Sarge Lester for all their hard work this past year. We could use your help to continue serving the community effectively. There are several open board positions. Most importantly, Sharon Dunn is stepping down after many years as Secretary, and we are seeking a replacement for this position. The primary duty of the Secretary is preparing minutes of the board meetings and maintaining a file of all board activities. This could be a shared position to reduce the time commitment. Please consider joining us in 2019!

Nancy Sharp

President Holmes Harbor Water Co., Inc

January 2019