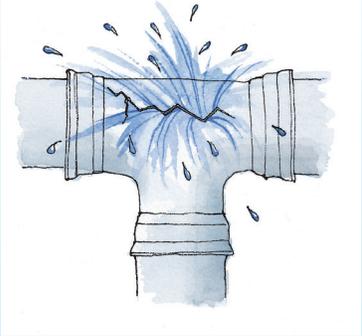




# Waterlines

AUGUST 2017

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MEDFORD WATER COMMISSION



## Spot a Leak?

While our water rates remain low compared with water providers across the region, conservation plays an important role in water resource management.

Call our office at (541) 774-2430 if you spot a ruptured waterline, a broken sprinkler head at a commercial building, or another water issue while out and about town.

Fresh drinking water is a limited resource. Conserving now helps keep treatment costs down, reduce capital expenditures, delay infrastructure projects, save energy, and safeguard this valuable resource long into the future.

### Committed to:

Excellence in Water Quality  
Professionalism  
Customer Satisfaction  
System Reliability

### Contact us:

200 South Ivy Street, Room 177  
Medford, OR 97501  
(541) 774-2430  
water@cityofmedford.org  
www.medfordwater.org

Find us on Facebook @MedfordWater

## 50 YEARS AT WATER TREATMENT PLANT



### July 2017 marked the 50th year of operations at the Robert A. Duff Water Treatment Plant

Constructed in 1967 and 1968, the treatment plant operates during peak-use months of the year, when water from the Rogue River is used to supplement Big Butte Springs, Medford Water Commission's primary water source. The river water is of high quality, but must undergo additional treatment as a surface water source, which is held to a higher standard.

In addition to chlorination and filtration, the water treatment process involves adding carbon dioxide to adjust the pH level, and exposing the water to ozone, a

form of oxygen, which helps kill germs and eliminate any unpleasant taste or odor. Following ozonation, a coagulant is added to help bring particulates together, which aids the filtration process.

In order to ensure uninterrupted water service to existing customers and to meet the continued growth in our valley, the plant is currently undergoing expansion to bring its pre-filtration capacity from 45 to 65 million gallons per day.

This modification will help safeguard the Commission's top priority: providing drinking water of the highest quality to our customers.



## COMMISSION WELCOMES NEW MANAGER

After a search that began late in 2016, Medford Water Commission is pleased to announce that Brad Taylor has been appointed as the new General Manager by the Board of Water Commissioners.

As the former Water Operations Manager for Oregon's largest public utility, Eugene Water & Electric Board,

he also previously worked for several private consulting firms and brings with him over 20 years of experience in Water Resource issues. He is a graduate of Humboldt State University, and recipient of the Homer Arnold Award in Applied Engineering for achievement in design involving environmental and resource problems.

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**UTILITY WITH HEART**

Medford Water Commission plays an active role in supporting our community, as well as promoting environmental protection. Below are some of the ways in which the Commission and staff give back.

*Protecting our drinking water*

Did you know that we are currently involved in multiple projects designed to help protect and improve water quality for our region?

Constantly anticipating the future water needs of our customers, not only are we expanding our pre-filtration capacity at the Robert A. Duff Water Treatment Plant, but plans are also underway to ensure we have a location ready to build another treatment plant for when population demands exceed current water production capabilities. Biological resources in the new location will be mitigated before construction begins.

More than 550 miles of water mains deliver water to customer household pipes and fixtures. The Commission is in full-compliance with EPA regulations concerning lead and

copper levels in drinking water, but a comprehensive Water Quality Corrosion Study is now in progress to evaluate any leaching of lead, copper and other metals in these mains from the source water through to our homes and businesses.



*Stewardship through partnership*

Our commitment to excellence in water quality also means we must ensure that our sources are protected. With the help of our partners, we routinely assess watershed land, offer pesticide disposal events, monitor and test soil and water samples, and balance our water needs with the protection of fish and wildlife habitats.

Some of these partners are listed below:

- American Water Works Association
- Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District
- Oregon Water Resources Department
- Rogue Basin Partnership
- Rogue River Watershed Council
- Southern Oregon Land Conservancy
- Water for Irrigation, Streams and Economy Project

*Helping our community*

Grants totaling up to \$15,000 are given annually to local charities (ACCESS, St. Vincent de Paul, and The Salvation Army) to help families in need with their water bill payments. Other grants go to local non-profit entities to help with the implementation of water-wise landscapes and upgrading to modern low-flow plumbing fixtures.

Our staff participates in demonstrations throughout the community, such as the Spring Garden Fair and the Kids and Creeks Education Fair.

*Serving our customers*

Free sprinkler checkups are offered in the summer to help customers save water and money. This involves a detailed inspection of your current irrigation system. You can also learn exactly how much to water with our weekly lawn watering schedule, based on current weather conditions, by calling 541-774-2460.

Rebates are given to help property owners replace their old toilets with new ultra low-flow models. Prior to installation, call our conservation team at 541-774-2436 to schedule a time for an inspection of the new and old toilet(s) and to receive a voucher for free recycling of the old toilet(s).

Through such conservation efforts and sustainable projects, we can maintain a reliable system. We believe not only in the quality of our water, but also in the quality of our community.

**WELCOME MANAGER**

*(Continued from Page 1)*

He is an active member of the Oregon Water Utilities Council and the American Water Works Association (AWWA), and previously served on the Board of the Pacific Northwest Section of AWWA and the Long Tom Watershed Council.



Brad Taylor

Mr. Taylor has enthusiastically accepted this challenge and is known for his passion for the water industry. We extend a warm welcome to him and look forward to supporting him in the leadership of our organization.

**Waterlines**

is a quarterly publication of the

**Medford Water Commission**

Established in 1922 and governed by the Board of Water Commissioners.

**Commissioners**

John Dailey • Jason Anderson • Bob Strosser  
Leigh Johnson • Daniel Bunn

**General Manager**

Brad Taylor

**Serving these cities:**

Medford, Ashland, Central Point, Eagle Point, Jacksonville, Phoenix, Talent

**Also serving:**

White City area and the following water districts: Elk City and Charlotte Ann