



Meeting the challenge of protecting the environment and providing quality sewer service to the community

2022 Year In Review

Commissioners and Staff

In 2022, the District welcomed Andrea Wright as the newest member of the Board of Commissioners. Andrea has been a part of the Lake Stevens community for over a decade and has proven to be an advocate for the people of Lake Stevens and the environment. Commissioner Dan Lorentzen was elected to serve on the Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts (WASWD) Board.

New Regulations

In 2022 the Department of Ecology's new Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit became effective. The goal of these new regulations is to maintain the dissolved oxygen content in the Puget Sound, helping to protect the salmon populations. By limiting the food (nitrogen) entering the water from wastewater treatment plants, it should reduce harmful algae blooms. The Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit sets limits on wastewater plants, including Lake Stevens. The Lake Stevens Sewer District Wastewater Treatment Plant operators, managers, and Board of Commissioners have been hard at work trying to meet the regulations in the most cost effective ways. The District, incredibly, ended the year at 80% of the annual limit for the first year of this new permit.



Dan Lorentzen
Position 1



Andrea Wright
Position 2



Kevin Kosche
Position 3



The District has an excellent group of employees who monitor your accounts, assist with payments, answer questions, and provide extraordinary service. You can contact them at (425) 334-8588 or through the website at www.lkstevenssewer.org.

RATES, FEES AND PROGRAMS

After a lot of careful deliberations, the Board of Commissioners approved the first monthly rate increase in five years for the District. A portion of the funds will be used to support capital projects for aging facilities and sewer mains. The District also increased developer related fees to ensure that rate payers do not subsidize development. The District started/updated many programs to help rate payers. A few of those programs include LIWAP (Low Income Water Assistance Program) for providing customer payment assistance, a Department of Commerce grant award for customers with qualifying arrearages, the District's Reduced Rate Program, and the Caring by Sharing Donation Program.



District employees took part in several community events including Aquafest, Touch-A-Truck, Harvestfest, and Holiday Toy Drive

District Audits

2022 was the first year the District participated in The Washington State Auditors Office (SAO) Cybersecurity Audit. Auditors were extremely pleased with the positive corrective attitude, professionalism, and dedication of the District's IT leadership. The SAO also conducted a 2021 Financial Audit and a 2020-2021 Accountability Audit. Both of these audits received unremarkable results, which is great.

The District's **Caring By Sharing Program** is funded by donations from community members and is administered through an agreement with a local non-profit. It is designed to help those in our community that need assistance pay their sewer bill. Please consider donating by following the instructions on your monthly sewer billing statement or at the District office.



Smoke escaping through home air vents while crews smoke test a Lake Stevens neighborhood



District crews pumping smoke into a manhole during smoke testing

2022 Completed Projects

The District Operations Crews conducted Smoke Testing of several sewer lines around the District. This testing is used to help identify deficiencies and areas of improvement to reduce inflow and infiltration (stormwater or groundwater entering the sewer system leading to higher costs for treatment). Many other projects and repairs completed included pumps and pipe repairs at lift stations and the Wastewater Treatment Plant. A new pretreatment management system called SwiftComply was implemented, helping keep dischargers in compliance with regulations and to protect the sewer system. Visit the District website for projects planned for 2023: www.lkstevenssewer.org.

Regular Board Meetings are the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 9:00 AM