

ROCKWOOD WATER PEOPLE'S UTILITY DISTRICT

PORTLAND, OREGON

A HISTORY OF SERVICE

AUGUST 2015

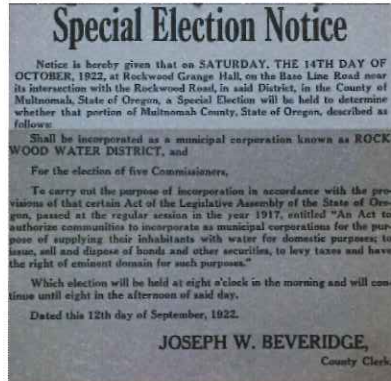
THE EARLY YEARS

The 1920s were a fertile time and Rockwood was growing, just like the rest of Multnomah County. Without a reliable water supply, the community could not continue the transition from farms to houses. A few early visionaries championed the idea of a Water Special District, which would bring water (and indoor plumbing) to all the houses of the area.



Burns property at 181st and Halsey

An election to form the Rockwood Water District and elect Directors was held on October 14, 1922. By a vote of 263 to 224 the District was formed and the first five Directors of the District were elected. However, the Oregon Supreme Court declared that election void.



On April 4, 1925 a Special Election of the area residents was held in the Rockwood Grange Hall on Baseline Road near 182nd Street and Rockwood Water District was incorporated on April 18, 1925.



Rockwood Grange Hall circa 1915. Photo courtesy Gresham Historical Society Research Library image #1424

From the beginning, the Superintendent was the "Chief Executive." The District's first Superintendent, C. H. Blocksom, served until 1937. Land was purchased directly across the street from the Grange Hall in 1927 where the District headquarters would be located. Board of Directors' meetings were held there at the Grange Hall until 1937.

The first order of business was to develop a water supply. The District built its first well in 1926 and its second in 1931. In 1937 it sold bonds and built a reservoir on Grant Butte. The District continued to grow throughout the 1930s as owners of former farmland, which was turned into subdivisions, requested annexation into the Water District (Multhauf Acres and Ritlow Acres in 1939).



190th and Powell circa 1890s. Photo courtesy Gresham Historical Society Research Library image #1257



Aerial Photo of Grant Butte Reservoir taken in 1939.

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One of the District's first Directors was Walker Quesinberry, who was very integral to the early history of the District. He owned and operated a hardware store at 182nd and Base Line Road (Stark Street today), and served on the Board of Directors from 1927 until his death in 1946. Between 1937 and 1945 District Board meetings were held at his hardware store. The District purchased land from him and rented storage space for equipment. He had a contract with the District as early as 1938 to collect payments for water bills for a 2% commission (as did five other businesses). Fred Quesinberry had such a contract in 1952. The District ceased the practice in 1995.

Upon the resignation of C. H. Blocksom in 1937, S. J. Glasscock resigned from the Board and was appointed Superintendent. Mr. Glasscock served as Superintendent until called to active naval service in August 1940. He was replaced by Vaughn McCann, who served until December 1942. When he resigned he was replaced by J. W. Spiller, who resigned from the Board to take the position. In the District's history, Mr. Glasscock and Mr. Spiller are the only two Board members who resigned in order to fill a position with the District. It wasn't until the 1980s that the position of District Manager (later General Manager) was created.

By 1943, the Rockwood Water District had 997 service connections in use and needed additional water supply. While the wells had met its needs until then, it became clear the most viable source of additional water supply was the City of Portland Bull Run system. A conduit from the watershed passed through the District, so in 1943 Rockwood signed its first contract with Portland for water supply.



Located at 148th and Stark. Reed's Happy Landing circa 1940s owned by Gayle Reed. Reed sold the property to Harold Boehmer in 1952. Photo provided by Rockwood customer, Tom Workman, who bought the property from Boehmer in 1977.

In 1949 the District had to build a 200,000 gallon storage reservoir. It built an elevated tank at 141st and Glisan. The tank was replaced in 1968.



Elevated tank at 141st and Glisan. Photo taken around 1966.



Current photo of reservoir at 141st and Glisan.

Rockwood Grange Hall
18303 SE Stark Street.

Old Rockwood Water
office at 18302 SE Stark
Street.



Photo of Stark Street toward the east taken in 1970.

In 1967, the District built a new 1 million gallon reservoir at the Grant Butte site. In 1970-1971, the District spent \$100,000 on improvements to stabilize the site; however because of the instability of the hill, the reservoir was never put into service and demolished in 2008.

In 1981, the District developed two wells to provide a partial back-up supply in the event of disruption of service from Portland and to augment summer season supply if needed. In 1990 the two wells were capped, due to imminent groundwater contamination.

In 1982 the District moved its office from Stark Street to the current location at 19601 NE Halsey Street.

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FORMATION OF PEOPLE'S UTILITY DISTRICT

While the Water District was officially formed in 1925, the People's Utility District was created in 1990. Had it not formed the People's Utility District, its territory would have been annexed by the cities of Gresham, Portland and Fairview. On May 15, 1990 residents of the District voted to form a People's Utility District; ensuring its continued existence as an autonomous local government.

The creation of a Water People's Utility District was unique. Consider the fact that during the 1980s and 90s six water districts (Rose City, Parkrose, Richland, Hazelwood, Gilbert, and Powell Valley Road) that had provided service in Multnomah County for decades were annexed and dissolved. Only Rockwood remains.

As a PUD it has continued to espouse the values upon which it was established in the first place: autonomy and independence; customer service and connection; financial and rate management; planning for and ensuring water system reliability and water availability as population and demand grow.

Results from the customer attitude survey in 2013 show its customers rate the District high on all aspects of its operations, including customer service, reliability and water quality.

NON-PARTISAN
DISTRICT

ROCKWOOD PUD DIRECTOR
PARCEL 7

COMPLETE PRECINCTS:	1/ 1
INCOMPLETE PRECINCTS:	0
NO VOTES (BLANKS):	0
OVER VOTES:	0

JACK ADAMS.....0 0.0
JEAN HOOD.....0 0.0
RICHARD L. LAUDERBACK.....0 0.0
ANGEL OLSEN.....0 0.0
JEANNE ORCUTT.....0 0.0
MARK W. POTTER.....0 0.0
BILL STALLINGS.....0 0.0
JOHN F. VOGL.....0 0.0

FORMS ROCKWOOD WATER PEOPLE'S UTILITY DISTRICT AUTHORIZED LEVY FOR REPORT
QUESTION: Shall Rockwood Water People's Utility District be formed with power to make a levy for an engineer's report?

YES
NO

ROCKWOOD PUD DIRECTOR
PARCEL 8

COMPLETE PRECINCTS:	21/ 21
INCOMPLETE PRECINCTS:	0
NO VOTES (BLANKS):	1,496
OVER VOTES:	10

JACK ADAMS.....1,283 7.1
JEAN HOOD.....1,238 7.1
RICHARD L. LAUDERBACK.....1,283 7.1
ANGEL OLSEN.....1,283 7.1
JEANNE ORCUTT.....1,283 7.1
MARK W. POTTER.....1,283 7.1
BILL STALLINGS.....1,283 7.1
JOHN F. VOGL.....1,283 7.1

FORMS ROCKWOOD WATER PEOPLE'S UTILITY DISTRICT AUTHORIZED LEVY FOR REPORT
QUESTION: Shall Rockwood Water People's Utility District be formed with power to make a levy for an engineer's report?

YES
NO

ROCKWOOD PUD DIRECTOR
PARCEL 9

COMPLETE PRECINCTS:	1/ 1
INCOMPLETE PRECINCTS:	0
NO VOTES (BLANKS):	0
OVER VOTES:	0

JACK ADAMS.....15 7.1
JEAN HOOD.....15 7.1
RICHARD L. LAUDERBACK.....15 7.1
ANGEL OLSEN.....15 7.1
JEANNE ORCUTT.....15 7.1
MARK W. POTTER.....15 7.1
BILL STALLINGS.....15 7.1
JOHN F. VOGL.....15 7.1

FORMS ROCKWOOD WATER PEOPLE'S UTILITY DISTRICT AUTHORIZED LEVY FOR REPORT
QUESTION: Shall Rockwood Water People's Utility District be formed with power to make a levy for an engineer's report?

YES
NO

This is the ballot for the non-partisan election held on May 15, 1990 to elect five Directors of the newly formed Rockwood Water People's Utility District. Nine names appeared on the ballot. Voters in 13 "parcels" voted. The top five vote getters, and thus the first five Directors of the Rockwood Water PUD, were (in order of number of votes): John Vogl, Bill Stallings, Jean Hood, Richard Lauderback, and Herb Brown.

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION
90-86

WHEREAS, at an election duly and regularly held on the 15th day of May, 1990, within Multnomah County, State of Oregon, and within the boundaries of a proposed district as herein described (see attachment A), there was submitted to the electors thereof the question whether or not a people's utility district should be incorporated as the Rockwood Water People's Utility District and to give authority to impose a special levy of \$3,000 under and pursuant to the provisions of ORS Chapter 261; and

WHEREAS, at the election so held 3,776 votes were cast in favor of incorporation, and 1,914 votes were cast against incorporation; and

WHEREAS, the incorporation of the Rockwood Water People's Utility District received the affirmative vote of the majority of the votes cast at the election;

NOW, THEREFORE, the undersigned hereby does proclaim and declare that all of that part of the State of Oregon, described on the attached map (attachment B) has been duly and legally incorporated as the Rockwood Water People's Utility District under and pursuant to the constitution and laws of the State of Oregon, and the district has the authority to collect the sum of \$3,000 by special levy against the taxable property within the district.

ADOPTED this 5th day of June, 1990.

By Gladys McGee, Chair
Multnomah County, Oregon

Lawrence Kressel, County Counsel
of Multnomah County, Oregon
06/04/90
LATTY.168/zw



Press Release from Herb Brown to the news media August 11, 1989

The reason for the press conference at the Rockwood Water District Office today is to once again start a process by which the citizens of the area will have a chance to voice their desires in a political matter at the ballot box. For this particular case, it will be a chance to vote to retain the essence of the Rockwood Water District or to watch as it is dismembered by the Cities of Gresham and Portland. Being active and participating in the affairs of their community should, I believe, be a significant part of every responsible citizen's life. For many years a number of people in our area, including my wife Pat and myself, have worked as volunteers to try to keep government responsibly attuned to the needs of its citizens. Some of the people who have worked together for many years in common causes are here today to join together again in this venture. Since 1983 in particular, many decisions have been made adversely affecting the citizens rights of self determination in our area. Some of the most noticeable decisions not reflecting the will of the people were made by appointed bodies. Examples were the decision of the Local Government Boundary Commission to deny the people's vote to form a new city in mid county and the infamous sewer mandate by the Environmental Quality Commission, a Governor appointed five member force with power over all the people in our area. Right now we want to cause an election and let the people affected decide for themselves the course of action they wish to take with regard to their Water District which has served them well for over 60 years.

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PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

In 1994, the District contracted for a water treatment feasibility work of Columbia River water. No additional steps beyond getting a permit from the State of Oregon have been taken regarding development of a Columbia River water supply. In 2000, the District entered a contract with the Clackamas River Water District to purchase a share of its treatment plant capacity. In 2003, the District developed two wells: Cascade #3 and Cascade #4 (10.5 mgd capacity).

In 2005, the District sold back to CRW the capacity it had purchased in 2000, since the District had determined that groundwater would be its preferred backup supply alternative. In 2009 the District developed Cascade Well #5 in partnership with the City of Gresham. Total capacity is 7.8 mgd, of which 2/3 is Gresham; 1/3 is Rockwood.

In 2006 the District and Portland entered its current 20-year Water Sales Agreement. It expires in 2026 and provides for a guaranteed supply of 7.8 million gallons per day.

From 2014-2032, three to six new wells will be developed per the District's Master Plan. The number of wells is dependent on how many are developed solely by the District or in partnership with Gresham. Additional Rockwood capacity eventually will be 9 to 11 million gallons per day, bringing total capacity to approximately 22 million gallons per day.

DIRECTOR	FROM	TO	YEARS	DIRECTOR	FROM	TO	YEARS
S. A. Arata	1922	1925	3	Robert Willoughby	1960	1962	2
George Barr	1922	1925	3	Joseph St. Martin	1961	1963	2
Bert Boice	1922	1925	3	Everett Jackson	1962	1971	9
C. L. Haynes	1922	1925	3	Irvin L. Giles	1963	1976	13
William McKee	1922	1925	3	Wilbur Loehner	1963	1974	11
S. D. Briggs	1925	1927	2	Noel Davis	1968	1974	6
John Burggraf	1925	1925	0.6	Donald Marshall	1969	1982	13
J. W. Edwards	1925	1941	16	Sam Radow	1971	1973	2
H. W. Lynch	1925	1928	3	Frank Dempsey	1973	1981	8
H. J. Stirling	1925	1925	0.3	Mike Weatherby	1974	1987	13
Anthony Zeller	1925	1932	7	Dave Bunnell	1977	1987	10
C. H. Blacksom	1927	1927	0.3	George Martin	1973	1980	7
C. C. Donagh	1927	1935	8	Gordon Fahey	1979	1980	1
Walker Quesinberry	1927	1946	19	William Moore	1979	1980	1
William McKee	1928	1930	2	Mel Edwards	1980	1985	5
A. W. Kreofsky	1931	1938	7	Byron Reed	1980	1985	5
Fred Rivears	1933	1937	4	Charles Ceciliani	1981	1983	2
Arvin Cornell	1935	1936	1	Roger Doherty	1983	1987	4
S. J. Glasscock	1936	1937	1	John Vogl	1985	1993	8
Dr. H. E. Collins	1937	1938	1	Jean Hood	1985	1994	9
Claude Clute	1938	1945	7	Richard Lauderback	1987	1993	6
C. M. Parsley	1938	1940	2	N. William Stallings	1987	1997	10
J. W. Spiller	1938	1942	4	Ivan Stewart	1987	1989	2
Elam Amstutz	1941	1945	4	Herb Brown	1989	1993	4
Jack Luscher	1941	1949	8	Ray Beach	1992	1992	0
J. C. Nelson	1942	1949	7	Larry Dixon	1991	in office	23
C. W. Klatt	1945	1949	4	Don Kowalkowski	1991	1991	0.3
W. W. Martin	1945	1949	4	Pat Brown	1993	2000	7
R. L. Frank	1947	1948	1	Grant Jennings	1993	1997	4
E. L. Jensen	1948	1949	1	Judy Parry	1993	1997	4
J. W. Adamson	1949	1958	9	Richard Scariano	1993	2003	10
Frank Batey	1949	1952	3	Mike Wiley	1993	1993	0.5
Charles Lewis	1949	1950	1	John Donily	1997	2000	3
Howard Peterson	1949	1953	4	Mel Edwards	1997	2000	3
Robert Spence	1949	1949	0.25	Pat Stallings	1997	2000	3
C. W. Ramey	1950	1952	2	Herb Brown	2001	2008	7
J. Frank Schmidt Jr.	1952	1956	4	Steve McElroy	2001	2007	6
Paul Stenzel	1953	1960	7	Sandra Ramaker	2001	2008	7
Joyce Matheny	1954	1958	4	Don McCarthy	2003	in office	11
Mel Surface	1956	1976	20	Tom Lewis	2008	in office	6
Dean Mickels	1957	1960	3	Cathi VanDamme	2008	2014	6
Harold Lionberger	1958	1962	4	Steve Okazaki	2008	in office	6
Aloys Daack	1959	1968	9	Steve Yousten	2015	in office	.5



J.W. Edwards



William McKee



Arvin Cornell



Herb Brown



Larry Dixon

