

FRIDAY LETTER
August 24, 2018

1. **Tree cutting violation meeting.** Dave and I met with four County enforcement officials for about 45 minutes in Snoqualmie on Tuesday morning to discuss the next steps to resolve our tree cutting violation at the Springs. We will not be fined, but must apply and pay for a permit to cut 16 trees and mitigate the damage by replacing them at a ratio of 3:1. This means planting 48 3-4 foot Western Red Cedar trees on the high ground at the SW corner of the property. The cost of the permit will be about \$1,500. Tree planting costs will depend on whether we do it ourselves for hire it done (my preference). We will get bids to share with the Board.

Meanwhile we have 60 days to assemble the documentation and submit the application for the permit. It's a fairly fat packet, including multiple copies of the wetland delineation and geotechnical reports we did for the Springs upgrade in 2005. Warren dug these out of Grey & Osborne files and sent them to me.

2. **Contracting for leak repair and meter installation.** As you begin to discuss renewing Frank's contract to respond to emergencies and install new meters, this is a good time to broaden the discussion to include other options for contracting for these services.

At this time Frank's expired contract requires that he be available to respond in a timely manner to any water emergencies, like leaks, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In exchange, it guarantees that he will be called to install all new meter services and other work up to a fixed dollar amount.

One option would be to pay Frank a small retainer (like we do NW Water) to be available to respond to emergencies, but limit his exclusive right to all new service connections and other small jobs by contracting with a second company that, at the Board's discretion, could be called to do a meter installation, or other small jobs, in times when Frank is busy on other jobs, or out of the area. We would have to get both Frank and the second contractors to agree to the same reimbursement schedule so that no matter who did the work the cost would be the same for meter installations.

Another option would be to create a small works roster of three or more contractors to do service installations and other small jobs, again all with the same fee schedule, but this time allowing the property owner to choose the contractor for meter installations. We would send them the contact list of pre-qualified contractors and they could interview them and pick the one they liked best.

Under all these options, Frank would still be the one to respond to emergencies, and he would be paid a fair monthly retainer fee just to be available. Frank has been able to successfully mobilize a crew to respond to emergencies in the past even when off the island or out of the country. We may want to tighten up this commitment in the new contract by requiring that he notify the Manager of his periodic absences and provide alternative contact information for the local crew leader still available to respond.

Kelly