

working for clean rivers

CLARIFIER

JUNE 2015

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

A Message from the Director



Hello BES! I'm very excited and honored to be able to join all of you in fulfilling the Bureau's important mission of protecting public health, water quality and the environment. I'm also excited about continuing the role of the Bureau as a leader among City bureaus and the jurisdictions in the region in making this a great place to live.

I have been able to meet some of you in the past few weeks and I am committed to meeting you all and getting to see all of our facilities and the great projects that you are working on across the City.

The Bureau is facing some significant challenges in the years to come from Portland Harbor, to sustainably maintaining our infrastructure, to facing a wave of retirements that will sweep many years of knowledge and experience out the door. However, I am confident that together we can be successful in facing these challenges because of the quality of the people in the Bureau and the strong foundation that you have laid in your previous work that is recognized as being some of the best in the world.

I would like to thank Jim Hagerman for his hard work and leadership as interim Director for these past few months.

You have all been incredibly gracious and helpful in welcoming a new member to the family. I'm humbled by the warmth of your welcome and look forward to being able to contribute to your incredible body of work.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Forch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'M' and 'F'.



Clockwise from top left, Ankeny Pump Station, Water Pollution Control Lab, Tryon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant and Headworks building at the Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant

Building Condition Assessment

Did you know that Environmental Services owns over 150 buildings? That includes buildings at the two treatment plants, various pump stations, the Water Pollution Control Lab and a few warehouses. BES buildings range in size from the 100,000 square foot warehouses, to the four story, 60,000 square foot Headworks building at the CBWTP, to several small buildings and pump stations.

They all have foundations, walls, doors, locks, windows, roofs, interior and exterior finishes, mechanical and electrical systems. These assets account for about 8% of our \$13.2 billion infrastructure replacement costs. The good thing is that we know where all of them are. What's not so good is that we don't have up to date information on their condition.

Environmental Services is now working with OMF/Facilities and other city bureaus that own buildings to assess our structures. The city has hired a consultant to assess conditions of major buildings and building systems, including an initial seismic analysis.

For BES, that means that we will have a detailed analysis of the condition of all our buildings. That information will become part of our Asset Management System and be used to plan improvement and replacement projects.

Force Main Repair

Environmental Services will begin work this fall on a project to repair a leaking section of the 30-inch diameter Inverness Force Main. The pipe is suspended under the Columbia Slough Bike/Pedestrian Bridge north of the Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant. The work will close the bridge for up to three months. Slip lining the force main to repair leaks will likely begin in October.



The celebration at the Foster Floodplain during East Portland Sunday Parkways on May 10 featured music, ice cream and salmon hats.



Sunday Parkways

More than 3,000 people visited Environmental Services staff at the Foster Floodplain Natural Area during East Portland Sunday Parkways on Mother's Day. It was the fourth year BES has sponsored a Sunday Parkways stop at the natural area.

Staff from the Johnson Creek Team, the BES Tree Program and the Green Street Stewards Program participated this year. Visitors enjoyed games and crafts, an Audubon Birds of Prey exhibition, bird watching, bike repair, live music, and free fish hats. We made 300 fish hats this year and gave them all away.

The Portland Bureau of Transportation says the overall event had a record number of participants. PBOT recorded 16,250 people walking, bicycling, skateboarding, skating and traveling by wheelchair along a seven-mile route of traffic-free streets. They recorded 14,000 participants last year.



Portland Utility Board

This week, the Portland City Council will take up an ordinance Commissioner Fish filed last week to establish the Portland Utility Board (PUB). The PUB will be designed to strengthen public oversight of the Portland Water Bureau and the Bureau of Environmental Services. The ordinance acts on the recommendations of the Utility Oversight Blue Ribbon Commission that Mayor Hales and Commissioner Fish formed to identify Water Bureau and Environmental Services oversight and accountability reforms.

Forming the PUB was one of the key commission recommendations. The PUB will be a year-round community oversight body that is actively involved in deliberations on bureau budgets, capital spending, policies, and programs. The PUB will replace the Public Utility Review Board and bureau Budget Advisory Committees, and will report directly to the City Council.

The proposed ordinance calls for the Mayor to appoint nine members to the PUB this summer. City Council will consider the ordinance on June 3 at 10:00 a.m.



Cover Story

Portland is on the *cover of this month's Trenchless Technology Magazine*. The article focuses on Environmental Services' post-CSO program sewer rehabilitation projects using trenchless sewer construction techniques. The story features an interview with BES Construction Services Manager Mark Hutchinson and photos, including the cover shot, supplied by BES construction inspectors.



New Rates

Environmental Services proposes a 3.6% increase in the average single family residential monthly sewer and stormwater bill for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. If the Portland City Council approves, the average bill will increase from \$65.25 to \$67.60 on July 1, 2015.

Commercial sewer rates will increase 3.4%, sanitary system development charges by about 22%, and stormwater system development charges by an average of 3.5%.



2015 Value Awards

Congratulations to all of this year's Value Award winners and thanks to those who attended award events at the Portland Building, the Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Water Pollution Control Laboratory. Here is a list of this winners. You can see more information about the award recipients and nominations at www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/ValueAwards.

Value our natural environment

Daryl Houtman
Jennifer Antak
Lloyd Stauning
Mark Walla
Matt Sullivan
Melissa Brown
Nadine Meyers
Shannah Anderson

Practice environmental sustainability in our work

Brandon Wilson
Jennifer Antak
Karen Martinek

Are proud of our work and accountable for our actions

Aaron Wieting
Ali Young
Ashley Tjaden
Beth Hiscott
Bret Davison
Claire Houston
Daniel Tariku
David Hammond
Eric Chamberlain
Frank Miley
Jennifer Karps
Jim Olszewski
Joe Evinger
Joel Bowker
John Thompson
Josh Robben
Kurt Robinson
Lisa Phillips
Mikiko Heitzman
Rick Washington
Sheryl Hicks

Respect and honor the diversity and contributions of our co-workers

Kristan Burkert
Lisa Howard
Loren Shelley
Michael Donaldson
Rick Scott
Suzanne Keller

Explore both traditional and innovative ways to achieve intended results

Aaron Lawler
Dan Parnell
David Olsav
Don Poletski
Frank Skeels
Frank Wildensee
Jeanna Borisch
Joseph Gardner
Karen Martinek
Linda Birth
Lisa Huntington
Loren Stover
Mary Stephens
Matt Burlin
Mindy Weimer
Randy Tomsik
Rick Scott
Sara Culp
Scott Clement

Promote a safe and healthy workplace

Andy Arnsberg
Nadine Meyers
Peggy Miner

Help and encourage each other to succeed individually and as a team

Alice Coker
Allen Cully
Amy Chomowicz
Andrew Neuman
Chris Richard
Colin Kamback
Cynthia Butler
Don Poletski
Ellen Larson
Frank Skeels
Frank Wildensee
Issac Gardner
Ivy Dunlap
Jeremiah Bawden
Joe Panis
Jordan McCann
Karen Martinek
Liz Moorhead
Lynn Sandretzky
Maggie Skenderian
Matt Krueger
Michael Donaldson
Mike Szwaya
Muriel Gueissaz-Teufel
Obbie Harris
Peggy Miner
Richard Reed
Rick McCoy
Rob George
Ruben Gonzalez-Baird
Sascha Strand
Tammy Cleys
Tracy Rauscher
Vinh Nguyen

Work in partnership with the community

Dave Baylis
Kyle Stephens
Marie Walkiewicz
Megan Hanson
Neil Choate
Sherri Peterson

Provide responsive, cost effective and reliable services to our customers

Beth Hiscott
Bret Davison
David Olsav
Don Wolsborn
Jeanna Borisch
Loren Stover
Lori Foster
Michael Pronold
Ryan Durocher
Will Romanelli

Value and promote the equitable development and use of minority, women and emerging small businesses

Amy Chomowicz
Pete Hesford



Information Sessions

Because of employee interest in the Portland Building Reconstruction Project, the Office of Management and Finance is now holding monthly meetings to update employees on the project. The next session is on Friday, June 26 at 2:30 p.m. in the Portland Building auditorium.

Career Fair

Environmental Services co-sponsored Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc.'s Women in Trades Career Fair last month. Oregon Tradeswomen holds the annual event to increase the number and diversity of women working in trades careers. The Portland bureaus of Development Services, Transportation and Water also co-sponsored the three-day career fair.



Excellence in Concrete

The Columbia Building has won an Oregon Concrete and Aggregate Producers Association (OCAPA) 2015 Excellence in Concrete Award. The building at the Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant received the award in the public facility category. The OCAPA started its award program 35 years ago to recognize projects that use concrete extensively or in innovative ways.





Meet your PEERS

PEER Resource volunteers are available to all Environmental Services employees to listen and offer support about problems in the workplace. PEER volunteers take special training in listening and communication skills, legal, labor, and employee assistance issues. They are available at the Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Water Pollution Control Laboratory, the Portland Building, Pioneer Tower, the Guilds Lake office and the 1900 Building. Alice Coker is the PEER Resource Program coordinator. Contact Alice for more information at 3-7914 or alice.coker@portlandoregon.gov.



The PEER Program recently recruited new volunteers and some current volunteers renewed their commitment. In the next few Clarifiers, we'll get to know your PEER volunteers.



Claire Houston

Claire joined BES in 2003 as a Wastewater Operator Trainee, became an Operator II in 2004 and has worked in each of the Operations work groups at the Columbia Boulevard Treatment Plant. She is currently a member of the Liquids crew where things become exciting when it rains. Before coming to work for the city, Claire attended Southern Oregon University and spent time working on trail crews in southern Arizona wilderness areas. The PEER program appeals to Claire because she values communication and community and believes a strong sense of both fosters a safe, harmonious and functional work environment. You can reach Claire at 3-2503.



Brandon Wilson

Brandon works as an engineer on the 11th floor of the Portland Building. Before joining the city in 2005, he worked in the Bay Area for six years dealing with and learning more of a wide diversity of world cultures. Brandon joined the PEER program to strengthen his interpersonal communication skills and for the opportunity to use those skills to potentially assist others. He believes that a special focus on listening is an essential ingredient to effective communication. You can reach Brandon at 3-7786.



Beth Hiscott

Beth has worked as a Field Operations Environmental Technician since 2007. Before working for the city, she used her geology degree to perform underground storage tank cleanups and environmental site assessments, served in the Peace Corps, worked for the National Park Service, and consulted for an art gallery. Outside of work, Beth enjoys playing in the outdoors, building community, studying alternative healing, and cooking nourishing meals for family and friends. Although during work hours Beth may be found wading in the city's streams and sewers, her desk is on the first floor of the WPCL. You can reach Beth at 3-5653.

Wellness Tip

Recent studies confirm the benefit of eating nuts such as almonds, hazelnuts, pistachios and walnuts. Researchers found that people who ate more than ¼ ounce of tree-grown nuts daily weighed less, had lower blood pressure and higher HDL (good) cholesterol. They also consumed less sugar, saturated fats and sodium. The findings show that eating nuts reduces the risk of heart disease and diabetes.



Being Prepared: If Disaster Strikes

Home disaster kits are important. But what happens if you're not home during an unexpected emergency? Be prepared to **react from different locations**, including your workplace or even your car. It's important to learn evacuation routes, communication plans and how you'll receive emergency notifications. Know the appointed gathering area after evacuation and get to know your Floor Wardens.



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY OF PORTLAND
working for clean rivers



Our Mission

Environmental Services serves the Portland community by protecting public health, water quality and the environment.

We provide sewage and stormwater collection and treatment services to accommodate Portland's current and future needs.

We protect the quality of surface and ground waters and conduct activities that plan and promote healthy ecosystems in our watersheds.

Our Vision

To be recognized as a trusted service provider and innovative environmental leader through a demonstrated commitment to clean rivers, healthy watersheds and our community.

Environmental Services: www.portlandoregon.gov/bes
Nick Fish, Commissioner Michael Jordan, Director

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