

## **OPENING REMARKS – Michael B., General Manager**

Welcome to the Lake Stevens Sewer District's 60th Anniversary celebration.

A special thanks today to Kim Jones, Tonya Christoffersen, as well as Casey & Jeff our senior operators at the Plant, and the entire treatment plant staff for hosting today.

Thank you to our guests, joining our team today to honor 60 years of dedicated service to the Lake Stevens region. We are pleased with a great turnout from several prominent citizens from Lake Stevens including our current and former District Commissioners.

- Former Commissioners Jack Hatlen, Commissioner George Wood
- Prior Commissioner Dan Lorentzen, and Commissioner Frank McDaniel
- Our Design consultants from G&O: Barry Baker and Doug Welch.
- Rodney Langer from CHS is on his way as well.

P.S.: Actor Chris Pratt, sends his regrets .....

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So, three short years after the creation of our special district, the City of Lake Stevens was incorporated in 1960 with a population of 900. I think just a few things have changed since then.

Presently the City population is somewhere close to 33,000, almost 10 square miles in area, with dozens of schools and businesses dotting the landscape to support a vibrant and growing community.

We are one of 188 Special Districts in the State of WA specifically focused on delivering top quality drinking water or handling the wastewater stream from Cities or Counties. Our job is to return quality, sanitized water back to rivers and other water bodies for the continuous water cycle to start over again.

Over the years the City population and business growth has demanded investments of over \$220 million in public utility infrastructure by this District. Over 110 miles of underground pipe and 29 lift stations carry sanitary sewer flows - ultimately to a point close to where we are standing at the entrance to this modern Treatment facility, just behind us.

**These underground pipelines are largely unseen, unheard, unspilled, unimpeded, and for the most part un-smelled thanks to the professionalism of our great staff.**

**What is it that is so special about the modern Wastewater Collections and Treatment industry workers & their staffs? Our entire team is focused on efficiency, cost effectiveness, responsiveness to emergencies, and care for the environment.**

**Our Administration** team is trained in the utmost customer service, national billing & accounting standards, public relations, business & finance, human resources, IT, public record keeping laws and much more. And they certainly know how to stage a wonderful event with cool new shirts and educational materials for the occasion.

**The Collections Division** team has trouble-shooting skills for complex mechanical, electrical, controls, alarms and diagnostic equipment. They are equipped with robotic-mounted cameras that can inspect 2,300 manholes and miles of underground pipe around this vast hilly area in which we live and work. They are by all accounts: systems engineers. 24-hours a day, 7-days a week they are called upon to respond in dry weather and in storm conditions to ensure back-up generators, bypass pumps and a small supply of vital spare parts are on hand no matter what the weather conditions. Just like a military chemical-biological team would have, they carry special monitoring devices to determine if the chemical make-up in a potentially blocked sewer line is omitting odors or constituents from a natural gas line or a damaged section of our system. These men ensure that the cascading infrastructure from small neighborhoods to a large pump station vault, often including tight spaces sometimes 30-feet deep, all work efficiently.

Finally our **Treatment Plant** team includes individuals with the highest classification of certification for the largest, most complex Treatment Plants in the NW. Our staff includes professionals trained in chemistry, biology, lab testing, hydraulics, sustainability, centrifuges, filters, ultraviolet light disinfection, bio-solids handling, & micropores.... even, nano-pores!

This team screens for 65 known toxics and contaminants to ensure such pollutants never make it into the Snohomish River and beyond. Their work is documented in daily reports to the State Department of Ecology.

Regulations in 1972 used to be about an inch thick or so; now there are multiple feet of volumes that we are required to be in compliance with.

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These 3 Divisions within the District represent individuals each averaging over 10 years in the clean water industry. Collectively our outstanding District provides the public with over 300 years of wastewater and clean water professional experience and specialized administrative support.

Thank you so much to all those individuals in the “green shirts” today continuing our service legacy.