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WA-18

## Spring Community Meetings

It's the time of the year where Klickitat PUD generally participates in community meetings. After being restricted by COVID-19 the past two years, KPUD is hosting public community meetings again this spring.

We are already out visiting with the communities where we provide water and wastewater services, with the first community meetings held in April, and more to come in May. These lead up to a public rate hearing for these systems on May 24.

At these meetings, we discuss the financial health of each of these systems and talk about the service levels and projects planned in the coming years. This is the basis for a rate analysis for each system and that rate analysis forecast is reviewed at each meeting. In addition, we provide a general PUD update if the communities are interested.

Last year KPUD chose to not raise any rates in response to the pandemic in an attempt to improve our customers ability to recover from COVID impacts. However, this is not a sustainable approach and KPUD continues to be conservative in recognition of lingering impacts.

Financially, each water system and each wastewater system is effectively a separate company. There are no financial ties to the electric system or the other water or wastewater systems. Even within a community, the water system and wastewater systems are separate entities. All revenues go into a single community system and all costs come out of it. If there is a budget surplus, it stays within that system. If more funds are needed, they come from that system or from loans paid for by that system.

If your community group or community service group would like the PUD to attend and give an update on the utility, rates or service, please contact Luann Mata at 509-773-7606.

**Jim Smith**  
**General Manager**

