

Council Business Meeting

September 18, 2018

Agenda Item	Water Supply and Demand Update	
From	Paula C. Brown, PE	Public Works Director
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SUMMARY

Although it has been a drier year with limited water availability, our community has been generally responsive to the desired conservation efforts. September is definitely a time to reduce outdoor watering as the days become shorter and plants begin the early stages of dormancy. Weather forecasts vary, but rain is in the forecast and will help to stabilize the reservoir levels. Although a little early to predict winter weather, many predict similar warmer and drier periods to this past year.

POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED

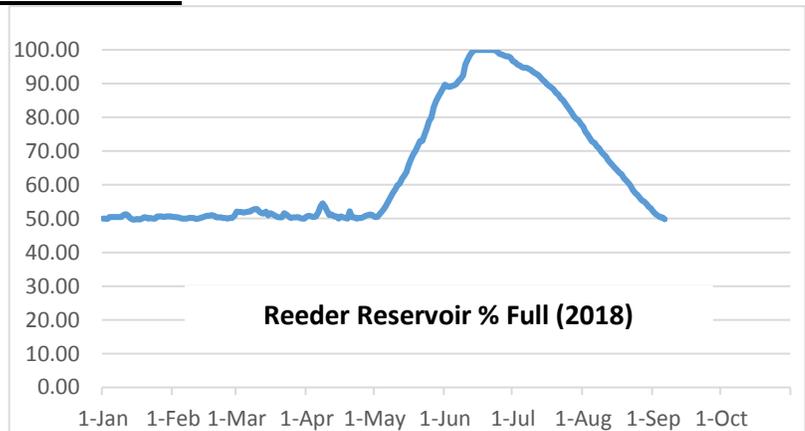
- Water Master Plan - “Adopt an integrated water master plan that addresses long-term water supply including climate change issues, security and redundancy, watershed health, conservation and reuse and stream health.”
- Water Management & Conservation Plan
- Climate and Energy Action Plan

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION

This item builds upon the Council’s August 7th and July 2nd Study Sessions, and provides updated information regarding the current state of the City’s water supply and demand.

BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Reeder Reservoir was 100% full through June 23rd and has been slowly dropping (49.8% on September 6th). This is a normal summer drawdown. The inflow of water in both the east and west forks of Ashland Creek is dropping as predicted and is now less than the City’s water demand for use (July 30 data: inflow total was 3.37 million gallons, while water use was 5.27 million gallons). Air temperatures in Ashland peaked at 100°F on July 12th and remained in the upper 90s for 8 days in a row. Water use averaged 5.3 mgd during that time frame. August temperatures were lower, averaging 88°F for the month. Correspondingly, water use is down to an average of 4.7 mgd for the last two weeks of August.



Based on this year’s snowpack levels, staff began augmenting the treatment plant with raw water from Talent Irrigation District (TID) on July 3rd and has been consistently using approximately a million gallons per day of TID water to supplement the inflow rates and water demand. TID has indicated water delivery will be maintained through September 15th.

Our Ashland customer base is very responsive to the request to limit water waste. At this time, staff does not feel additional or more aggressive conservation requirements are necessary. We continue to encourage all of our water users to conserve water where appropriate. Our water conservation specialist can provide assistance and tips for better watering habits. With the increasing demand on our water resources, it is important for all of us to find ways to use our water more efficiently. There are many simple ways to reduce the amount of water we use both indoors and outdoors. To schedule a free irrigation evaluation simply call 541-552-2062 or email Julie Smitherman (Julie.smitherman@ashland.or.us). For a limited time, a complimentary “Love Your Water” reusable tote bag will be given out upon our visit to your home. For more water efficiency tips please visit, www.ashlandsaveswater.org.



FISCAL IMPACTS

The water fund is appropriately funded for the remainder of the biennial budget. Revenues for the summer of 2018 were slightly higher than projected.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

No formal action is required by Council other than continued support for the water conservation staff and successful efforts to monitor water use and provide updated information to our citizenry.

ACTIONS, OPTIONS & POTENTIAL MOTIONS

NA

REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS

Press Release: September 6, 2018

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE

DATE: September 6, 2018

CONTACT: Julie Smitherman, Water Conservation Specialist, 541-552-2062

Love Your Water! – Seven Steps to Using Your Water Wisely This Fall

The fall is a great time to reassess our lawns and gardens to make sure we're making the most of the water we use in our yards. As the weather cools and plants get ready for fall and winter temperatures, they require less water and a little less maintenance. We encourage our residents to continue to "Love Your Water" and use it wisely as we transition into the fall season. Follow the steps below to help your plants weather the remainder of the summer and prepare for fall while continuing to maintain a healthy water-wise landscape.

- **Reduce Your Watering Times** – Over-irrigation is common in late summer and early fall, especially September. Even though we still have high temperatures during this time, plant water needs decrease significantly because daylight hours have become shorter and the sun's intensity has decreased.
- **When to Water** – You should only need to water 2-3 days a week through mid-September and then 1-2 days a week through the end of September. By October, plants are beginning to prepare for dormancy and rain should offset any remaining plant water need.
- **Inspect Your System**. Check for leaks, broken or clogged heads and make adjustments to be sure you're watering plants and not sidewalks, fences or buildings. Begin preparing your system for the winter by taking steps to winterize irrigation components. (e.g. insulate valves etc.)
- **Avoid Watering when it Rains** – Keep an eye on the weather and shut off your sprinklers during any form of precipitation.
- **Check Soil Moisture** – Use a moisture meter to detect whether moisture remains in the soil from previous watering. If there is sufficient moisture, then watering can be delayed.
- **Replace Grass with Drought-Tolerant Plants** – fall is a great time for planting new landscapes. Replacing portions of your lawn with drought-tolerant groundcovers and



shrubs can be a stylish way to conserve a lot of water. Explore the City of Ashland's Water-Wise Landscaping Website for some fresh ideas.

- Schedule a FREE Irrigation Evaluation – To schedule an appointment simply call 541-552-2062 or email Julie.smitherman@ashland.or.us. For a limited time, a free “Love Your Water” reusable tote bag will be given out upon our visit to your home. For more water efficiency tips please visit, www.ashlandsaveswater.org.

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