

The Ripple Effect

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Citizens Utility Board
30 Years and Counting
of Oregon

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Portland Utility Oversight Blue Ribbon Commission And CUB Want To Hear From You!

The Portland Utility Oversight Blue Ribbon Commission has launched, and CUB will provide a phone briefing on how to get involved on **Wednesday, October 8th. (See details on flip side for joining with other CUB members to get involved.)**

The Commission was formed by Mayor Charlie Hales and Commissioner Nick Fish to develop oversight and accountability reforms regarding how the City Council and its public utility agencies set rates. Streamlining communications and improved transparency are also priority topics.

Janice Thompson, CUB's advocate for residential customers of the Portland Water Bureau and the Bureau of Environmental Services that manages stormwater and sewers, is on the twelve-member group. Other members are from a range of business and public sector interests, including several with utility experience.

The Blue Ribbon Commission began in mid-July, and will hold a public hearing on draft recommendations on Thursday, October 16th from 6:00 to 8:30 pm in Room C in the Portland Building at 1120 SW 5th Ave. The Commission will present final recommendations to the Portland City Council in mid-November.

Since its launch, the Blue Ribbon Commission has received briefings by the Bureau of Environmental Services and the Water Bureau that were chock full of budget data, information about public assets including miles of water and sewer pipes, and descriptions of environmental regulations and their impact on utility rates. The Commission also learned about the national reputation of Portland's utility bureaus including having very good bond ratings, which is like you having a good credit rating.

CUB's own Janice Thompson gave a presentation on elements of effective oversight of utility policy, budget development, and the rate-setting process. This and presentations on other decision-making models prompted a vigorous discussion of options for improvements to ensure more independent analysis and advocacy.

These briefings and all other materials presented to the Commission are available at: www.portlandonline.com/fish/index.cfm?c=65200. All meetings are open to the public.

Contact Janice Thompson at 503-227-1984 x24 or janice@oregoncub.org if you want more information about the Blue Ribbon Commission. You can also participate by calling in to our phone briefing on October 8th. We hope you can join us!



Fun At Portland Water Forum

On June 26th, Janice Thompson, CUB's consumer advocate for Portland customers of water, sewer and storm water management services, participated in an educational and entertaining panel at the forum organized by the City Club of Portland's New Leaders Collective.

Janice began the evening with a quiz show to provide some basic info about Portland's water and sewer services in an interactive way, with a few laughs included. A panel presentation followed that included Mike Rosenberger, Kent Craford and Laurie Irish Bauman in addition to Janice. Participants ended the evening by asking great questions.



And if you have questions about Portland water, sewer or stormwater services you can contact Janice at 503-227-2984 X24 or janice@oregoncub.org. Janice is also available to speak to groups.

Reward Yourself



Your Portland utility bill pays for water, sewer, and stormwater management services provided by the Water Bureau and the Bureau of

Environmental Services. On an average residential bill, about 1/3 of the charge pays for water and 2/3 pays for sewer and stormwater management.

The Clean River Rewards program reduces the stormwater charge on your residential bill if **you can manage stormwater runoff from your roof.**

You can register online and see if you are eligible for this program at www.CleanRiverRewards.com. Or download an application form from that website, fill it out and mail in. You can also call 503-823-1371 to have an application form mailed to you. Someone at that number can also answer your questions about the Clean River Rewards program and what it can do to reduce your bill.

Join CUB! For A Phone Briefing

When:

Wednesday, October 8th
7:00 to 8:00 pm

Call In At:

1-866-740-1260, then
access code 1429768#

Janice Thompson, CUB Consumer Advocate and Blue Ribbon Commission member will provide a briefing for CUB members on the Portland Utility Oversight Blue Ribbon Commission's draft recommendations.

There will also be time for questions and strategizing on how to get involved by testifying at the Commission's public hearing on Oct. 16th.