

Water system manager finding job hectic

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

The newly-hired general manager for the five special water districts is busy preparing the operating budgets for the 1982-83 fiscal year.

Jerry Schmidt of Oregon Water Consultants,

Hillsboro, took over the duties as general manager for the Riverside, Wildwood, Country Club, Sleepy Hollow and Alder Creek-Barlow districts on July 1. They were formerly the Alder Creek Water Company.

The morning Schmidt officially began his duties he

faces some difficult time schedules.

Developing a plan for renovating or rebuilding the water systems to meet the compliance schedules for the Clean Drinking Water Act, and identifying and securing funding sources to accomplish this work, will have to be done in a relatively short period of time.

The immediate and most pressing task is putting together the operating budgets for the five water districts. The budget hearings for each of the districts were to have been completed by June 30. They were to have been recorded in the county tax office by July 15.

Neither Schmidt nor the five water districts could legally begin operations until a day after the budget hearings were to have been completed.

Schmidt said he approached the tax office and has gained a 60-day ex-

emption for the district's budgets. Meetings are currently underway with the water users of the districts. He said he anticipates the budgets for the coming fiscal year will be finalized by Sept. 15.

"Everybody normally has a year or two years to prepare their budgets, but we are having to accomplish this in a matter of weeks," said Schmidt. "But it is no different than what we have been up

against in the past year. Everything had to be done yesterday."

Within one month Schmidt is to begin actually operating the five water systems, on a daily basis, as well as assisting a 10-member board of governors known as the Alder Creek Water Authority.

The Water Authority, which is comprised of two representatives from each of the districts, on Aug. 1 had the federal receiver-

ship of the Alder Creek Water Company transferred to its jurisdiction in

U.S. District Court. Despite the mountain of work facing him as general

manager, Schmidt said he feels confident all the deadlines will be met.

Liars, artists needed for mountain festival

Liars are in demand. Mirra Meyer, a Timberline consultant who is organizing the Mountain People Festival, said that she would like to have a liar's contest be a part of the festival.

The festival, "starring people who live on the mountain," will be Oct. 9 and 10 at Timberline.

Besides liars, Meyer is looking for potters,

painters, logging teams, musicians, cooks and others with special talents. Anyone from the Sandy area on up the mountain is welcome to participate. Meyer wants the festival to have a "local" base.

To participate, or for more information, contact Meyer at 244-3895, or write Mountain People, P.O. Box 02262, Portland, 97202.

Tall Tales weekend set

The Tall Tales weekend at Timberline will feature dancers, storytellers and mime artists.

Set for Aug. 14 and 15 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., short art workshops, hikes, a treasure hunt and other activities are planned. "Noted storyteller Mara Stahl will weave an atmosphere of magic as she and her puppets relate

mountain myths in two performances on Saturday," according to Mirra Meyer, director. Ronald McDonald will headline Sunday's events.

Camping facilities are available. General admission is free, although there will be a "child-size" fee for some activities.

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