

Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District
Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
June 8, 2011

Acting Board President Deborah Lambert called the Regular Session to order at 6:30 p.m. Other District representatives present included Commissioners Todd Citron, Laura Weide and Ian Millar, District Engineer Bill Hunter, legal counsel Brian Hansen, Consulting Engineer Melanie Mankamyer, Accounting Manager Debi Hill and Recording Secretary Lyn Edwards. Commissioner Mc Roberts was excused from the meeting. A list of interested participants is on file.

- Other Business

- **South Geneva Developer Extension Agreement**

At the April 13, 2011 meeting the Board considered and denied a request from property owner Phil Sharpe for authorization to hook up to the South Geneva DEA infrastructure prior to the District's final acceptance of the facilities. At the April 25, 2011 meeting, the Board granted a one year time extension request from the developer of the South Geneva DEA. At the request of the Developer, the Board accepted the South Geneva Developer Extension Agreement as complete subject to staff approval of all of the criteria involved in the Developer Extension Agreement process at the May 25, 2011 meeting.

Hunter explained that the developer has encountered a problem acquiring three easements on properties whose owners are either difficult to contact or have passed away. As these issues will add significantly to the time it will take to acquire the easements and they are the only outstanding item, Hunter suggested that the District issue the final acceptance for the DEA provided that a restrictive covenant is recorded against all but one of the lots preventing any construction or occupancy until the easements have been secured. When the development is finalized the facilities will serve a total of seven lots, one of the seven properties is currently being built upon by Phil Sharpe. Sharpe and the developer's attorney Chet Lackey presented additional options for the Board to consider, the issue being how to provide water and sewer service to Sharpe's new home while assuring that the District will receive the missing easements in a timely manner. Interim technical adjustments to the water and sewer facilities within the development were also discussed. After substantial discussion, the Board agreed to accommodate the developer's request provided that the District's conditions are met.

Action Taken

Citron moved, Weide seconded, to conditionally accept the South Geneva Developer Extension Agreement provided that all lots except Phil Sharpe's are restricted from construction and that the developer makes the recommended technical adjustments to accommodate one connection. Staff is authorized to approve final acceptance of the development, issue water and sewer will serve letters and release the Restrictive Covenants when all easements have been secured and the Developer has provided the District with an indemnification hold harmless agreement regarding the potential storm water issue pertaining to the infrastructure on Lookout Avenue. Motion passed.

- Other Business

- **Presentation Regarding Invasive Aquatic Species**

Clare Fogelsong and Teagan Ward from the City of Bellingham gave a presentation regarding invasive aquatic species. Invasive aquatic species are non-native plants, animals and pathogens that live primarily in water and are able to thrive in new environments. One of the

most well-known examples of aquatic invasive species are the Zebra and Quagga Mussels. These are small freshwater bi-valve mussels that are native to Eurasia and were first discovered in the U.S. in Lake St. Clair in the late 1980's. These mussels can now be found in water bodies from the great lakes all of the way to Lake Mead. There are many different impacts that result from an infestation of Zebra and Quagga Mussels. One of the main ones we are concerned about for Lake Whatcom is that they can attach to and damage infrastructure, clog intake valves and impede the flow of water to municipal water systems. They can also cause long term taste and odor issues in drinking water and irreversibly damage native aquatic eco systems. The annual costs for combatting these species are now running into the billions of dollars nationwide.

The most common way these mussels are spread is by boats and other recreational equipment that have not been properly cleaned after use in an infected water body. We are working on a prevention strategy for Lake Whatcom including the implementation of a mandatory water craft inspection program utilizing trained inspectors who have the authority to quarantine infected or high risk vessels. These species can only survive out of the water for a certain amount of time, so if the vessel is left out of the water long enough that's one way to eliminate them.

A lengthy discussion followed the presentation. Staff was directed to send a letter to the City and County Councils in support of establishing an aggressive invasive species prevention program for Lake Whatcom as soon as possible.

- Summary of Existing District Projects and Safety Program Update
The Board reviewed and discussed the June Summary of Existing District Projects.

- Consent Agenda

Action Taken

Weide moved, Citron seconded, approval of:

- **General and Construction Fund Claims totaling \$410,959.91**
- **May Payroll totaling \$67,417.55**
- **May Payroll Benefits totaling \$59,906.76**

Motion passed.

With no further business, Lambert adjourned the Regular Session at 8:05 p.m.

Recording Secretary, Lyn Edwards

Date Minutes Approved

Todd Citron

Laura Weide

Deborah Lambert

John W. Millar