



LAKE WHATCOM WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT  
1220 LAKEWAY DRIVE  
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON 98229

REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA

*August 27, 2014*

8:00 a.m. – Regular Session

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY  
At this time, members of the public may address the Commission. Please state your name prior to making comments.
3. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA
4. CONSENT AGENDA
5. OTHER BUSINESS
6. MANAGER'S REPORT
7. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY
8. General Manager Performance Evaluation (Executive Session per RCW 42.30.140(4) – 30 Minutes)
9. ADJOURNMENT



LAKE WHATCOM WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

AGENDA BILL

DATE SUBMITTED:	August 18, 2014		
TO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS			
FROM: Patrick Sorensen	MANAGER APPROVAL <i>Patrick Sorensen</i>		
MEETING AGENDA DATE:	August 27, 2014		
AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:	6.0		
SUBJECT:	Manager's Report		
LIST DOCUMENTS PROVIDED ⇒ NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING AGENDA BILL: _____	1. Manager's Report		
	2.		
	3.		
TYPE OF ACTION REQUESTED	RESOLUTION <input type="checkbox"/>	FORMAL ACTION/ MOTION <input type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATIONAL/ OTHER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**BACKGROUND / EXPLANATION OF IMPACT**

Updated information from the General Manager in advance of the Board meeting.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None

**RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION**

None required.

**PROPOSED MOTION**

None

## General Manager Comments

August 27, 2014

### Board Meeting

#### Important Upcoming Dates:

- **Meetings Associated with the Lake Whatcom Management Program:**
  - **Policy Group Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 15 at 1:30 p.m. in the Garden Room. Remember, all Policy Group Meetings are publicly noticed by the District.
  - **Management Meeting:** The next meeting has not been scheduled at this time.
- **Next Regular Board Meeting:** The next regular meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 10, 2014** at 6:30 p.m.
- **Employee Staff Meeting:** The next meeting is set for **Wednesday, September 11, 2014 at 8:00 a.m.** in the Board Room. Commissioner Millar is scheduled to attend this meeting. Scheduling is rotated by alphabetical order each month.
- **Washington Association of Sewer & Water Districts (WASWD) Section III Meeting:** The next Section III meeting will be Thursday, September 18 at the Washington Association of Sewer and Water District's Fall Conference at The Davenport Hotel in Spokane at 7:00 a.m. All WASWD Section III Meetings are publicly noticed by the District.
- **Whatcom Water District's Caucus Meeting:** The date for the next meeting has not been scheduled yet as the third Wednesday conflicts with the WASWD Fall Conference.

#### Other:

- **Committee Meeting Reports as Needed:** This is a place holder for Board and staff members to report on recent committee meeting reports since the last Board Meeting.
- **Annual Labor Sponsored Employee Picnic:** The annual summer picnic sponsored by the employee members of AFSCME - Local 114WD will be held on **August 28** between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. at the Shop on Lakeview. The Union has invited the Commissioners to attend.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

8-20-2014

### Wants water agency to hold rates steady

I am writing in response to Water District 10 Manager Patrick Sorenson's Aug. 13 Whatcom View Opinion column in which he attempts to rationalize the forthcoming Water District 10 rate increases. Water District 10's rates have increased well over 200 percent in the past 15 years and are currently the highest in the county by far. Mr. Sorenson cites the small number of ratepayers and infrastructure improvements as the reason for the increases. We have had annual rate increases nearly every year for the past 20 years! Why wasn't a reserve created? Why were new offices built off district property and outside the district? Why, if we have so few ratepayers, do we have separate clerks for accounts payable and receivable? If the district is so small, why is the manager paid more than most all the mayors and school superintendents in the area? I call on the board of commissioners to adopt a more conservative budgetary philosophy. Rather than spend what it would like to spend and then raise the rates accordingly, I believe the board needs to look at existing revenues and prioritize their spending allocations. This is how private

### HERALD LETTERS POLICY

Send letters to the editor to [letters@bellinghamherald.com](mailto:letters@bellinghamherald.com). Only original, signed letters of 1,400 characters and spaces or less from Whatcom County residents are considered for publication. A phone number and home street address must be included for verification. Letters may be edited and all submissions become the property of The Bellingham Herald. Letters about the general election must be received by Oct. 16.

businesses and households operate. It is only the government and quasi-governmental agencies who can raise taxes or utility rates to meet expenses who do not have to follow this regimen. I, for one, heartily resent these annual increases, and I don't believe I'm alone!

**Dennis Lewis**  
Bellingham



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**BACKGROUND / EXPLANATION OF IMPACT**

Annual performance evaluation for the General Manager.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Not applicable at this time.

**RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION**

Not applicable at this time.

**PROPOSED MOTION**

Not applicable at this time.