

Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District
Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
October 25, 2017

Board President Laura Weide called the Regular Session to order at 8:00 a.m. Other District representatives present included Commissioners Todd Citron, John Carter and Bruce Ford; General Manager Patrick Sorensen; District Engineer Bill Hunter; Finance Manager Debi Denton; consulting engineer Melanie Mankamyer; legal counsel Robert Carmichael; and Recording Secretary Rachael Hope. Commissioner Curtis Casey had an excused absence. A list of interested participants is on file.

- Public Comment

Sudden Valley resident E.J. Ledet posed several questions to the board about dissolved oxygen in Lake Whatcom, and requested the board obtain answers to his questions to be communicated at a later date.

Water District Resident Kris Halterman expressed concern about potential taxes that could result from the formation of a Storm Water District in the Lake Whatcom Watershed.

- Consent Agenda

- Action Taken

- Citron moved, Carter seconded, approval of:**

- **Minutes for the October 11, 2017 Board Meeting**
 - **Accounts Payable Vouchers totaling \$120,672.21.**
 - **Payroll for Pay Period #22 (10/07/2017 through 10/20/2017) totaling \$42,077.29.**
 - **Payroll Benefits for Pay Period #22 totaling \$45,865.24.**

- Motion passed.**

- Proposed Whatcom County Storm Water District

Sorensen recalled that at the October 11, 2017 Board Meeting Commissioner Citron requested that the Board discuss at a future meeting a proposal within County government to create a storm water utility serving the Lake Whatcom basin.

At a County Surface Water Work Session, the Council directed staff to develop a plan and report back on how to form a storm water district/utility serving the Lake Whatcom basin for their November 11 meeting. In addition, Sorensen was told that that such a utility would also need to address financial resources for both capital and operating expenses including a revenue funding source with implementation within the next year. The minutes to the October 17 Water Work Session meeting are not available yet.

Discussion followed. Public attendees voiced their concerns, ranging from another tax being added to already increasing taxes and rates; whether it would be a countywide tax since it isn't only the people living around the lake who will benefit; where the funding will come from; and how money will be spent. Commissioner Citron asked the board to consider signing a letter endorsing the formation of a water district. The board decided against it at this time and no formal motion was made.

- North Shore Water Quality Study Update & Discussion

Sorensen reported that the Management Team Meeting on October 13 was better attended than usual. General response was critical of the Herrera report and several challenges to the report were expressed. It was agreed that the presentation to the Lake Whatcom Policy Group would be delayed until the February 2018 meeting. Sorensen will provide another update after a scheduled October 31 meeting with the County.

• Summary of Existing District Projects

Hunter updated the board on the status of several current projects, as well as giving an update on the October 6 force main break. District staff has a debrief meeting scheduled to go over successes and preparedness later this week.

• Monthly Budget Analysis

Denton reported that the annual budget and spending are on course. The audit exit conference was completed, and the District received a clean audit. Draft Budget for 2018 will be presented at the November 8, 2017 Board Meeting.

• Other Business

Postpone Executive Session

Weide requested to move the Executive Session for General Manager's performance evaluation to the November 8 meeting. The board agreed.

• Manager's Report

Sorensen summarized upcoming dates to remember.

• Public Comment

Sudden Valley resident Leslie McRoberts expressed that she would prefer the Board not issue a letter in support of the formation of a Storm Water District at this time.

Sudden Valley resident E.J. Ledet commented that he would like to see the main objective of any tax money collected be going directly to improving the quality of the lake.

With no further business, Weide adjourned the Regular Session at 10:00 a.m.



Recording Secretary, Rachael Hope

11/29/2017

Date Minutes Approved



Laura Weide



Todd Citron



Bruce R. Ford

excused

Curtis J. Casey



John Carter

