



1220 Lakeway Dr • Bellingham, WA 98229

REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Minutes

April 10, 2024

Board President Todd Citron called the Regular Session to order at 6:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Commissioner Todd Citron (v)	General Manager Justin Clary
Commissioner John Carter	Engineering Manager Greg Nicoll
Commissioner Bruce Ford	Legal Counsel Bob Carmichael
Commissioner Jeff Knakal	Recording Secretary Rachael Hope
Commissioner David Holland	

No public were in attendance. Attendees noted with a (v) attended the meeting virtually.

Consent Agenda

Action Taken

Carter moved, Knakal seconded, approval of:

- **Payroll for Pay Period #7 (03.16.2024 through 03.30.2024) totaling \$46,712.21**
- **Benefits for Pay Period #7 totaling \$53,410.48**
- **Accounts Payable Vouchers totaling \$113,389.41**

Motion passed.

Effective Utility Management Assessment Results Presentation

Clary recalled that the Effective Utility Management (EUM) assessment process has been developed by industry professionals to help water and sewer utilities make informed decisions and practical, systematic changes to enhance level-of-service and achieve excellence in utility performance. District staff, management, and board have gone through the assessment process over the past few months. The results of the assessment process, both by each group and in aggregate, were presented to the Board. Discussion followed.

Whatcom County Onsite Sewage System Regulation Approach Discussion

Clary explained that the potential impacts of onsite sewage systems (OSS; commonly referred to as septic systems) within the Lake Whatcom Watershed has been an ongoing concern of the District for the past several years. OSS are regulated under Chapter 24.05 of the Whatcom County Code. The Whatcom County Department of Health and Community Services is responsible for administering the regulations throughout Whatcom County, including the 789 recorded OSS in the Lake Whatcom Watershed.

Health Department staff presented an overview of the OSS compliance monitoring program specific to regulation of OSS in the Watershed during the February 28, 2024 meeting. An outcome of that presentation

was the County's commitment to collaborate between its Health and Public Works departments to develop an enhanced approach to regulating OSS in the Watershed. The Board reviewed the County's proposed approach, and discussion followed.

Other Business

Commissioner Ford provided the Board with a draft letter regarding OSS and management of Lake Whatcom, to be discussed at a future meeting.

General Manager's Report

Clary updated the Board on several topics, including a recent meeting with the selected contractors and stakeholders for the Division 7 Reservoir Replacement project, a recent meeting with Eric Johnston from the City of Bellingham's public works department regarding the Post Point Treatment Plant, and a recent customer inquiry regarding buildout and the impending end of the 25-year development moratorium related to ULID 18. Discussion followed.

With no further business, Citron adjourned the regular session at 8:00 p.m.



Board President, Todd Citron

Attest: 

Recording Secretary, Rachael Hope

Minutes approved by motion at Regular Special Board Meeting on April 24, 2024