



1220 Lakeway Dr • Bellingham, WA 98229

REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Minutes

June 10, 2026

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

Attendees:

Commissioner Todd Citron
Commissioner John Carter (v)
Commissioner David Holland
Commissioner Jeff Knakal
Commissioner Nick Greif

General Manager Justin Clary
Engineering Manager Greg Nicoll
Finance Manager Jenny Signs
Operations Manager Jason Dahlstrom
Recording Secretary Rachael Hope
Legal Counsel Bob Carmichael

Also in attendance were Aryan Chawla of Waterworth (v), and two members of the public in observation only (v). Attendees noted with a (v) attended the meeting virtually.

Consent Agenda

Action Taken

Knakal moved, Holland seconded, approval of:

- Minutes for the 05.27.26 Regular Board Meeting
- Payroll for Pay Period #12 (05.23.2026 through 06.05.2026) totaling \$52,614.95
- Benefits for Pay Period #12 totaling \$56,593.96
- Accounts Payable Vouchers totaling \$81,635.37

Motion passed.

Approval of Retrospective Rating Plan Agreement with the Washington Association of Sewer & Water Districts

Clary explained that the District has participated for several years in the Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts (WASWD) Retrospective Rating (Retro) Program; which offers qualified members a potential cost-saving benefit through the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries (L&I). The program is a risk pool that rewards employers who minimize their industrial insurance losses. Through Program participation, the District receives refunds on L&I premiums when total claims for the pool members are less than the L&I premiums paid by the participants. Over the past three years, the District has received just over \$37,000 in refunds based on the pool's performance.

The WASWD Retro Program is administered by Archbright, with a current administrative fee of 4% of the collective workers' compensation premiums paid to L&I. This premium has remained unchanged for the 5 years they have administered the plan, and Archbright has requested to increase the fee to 5% to address increased operational/staffing costs. Staff presented the board with a revised agreement between WASWD

and the District, the only change being an increase to 4.5% for fiscal year 2026 and subsequent increase to 5% for fiscal year 2027. Discussion followed.

Action Taken

Greif moved, Holland seconded, to authorize the General Manager to execute the updated Retrospective Rating Plan Agreement with the Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts, as presented. Motion passed.

Water Utility Rate Design Alternatives Discussion

Signs recalled that during the regularly scheduled Board meeting on May 27, 2026, the Board requested the evaluation of three water rate design scenarios to support their selection of a preferred rate design prior to moving forward with the 2026 rate study. The scenarios were compared in multiple areas, including affect on customer bills, debt service coverage, and the long-term financial sustainability of the Water Utility Fund. Ary Chawla from Waterworth provided visuals of multiple scenarios created with the District's finance management software comparing financial projections and customer bill comparisons under each potential rate design. Discussion followed.

General Manager's Report

Clary updated the Board on several topics, including wrap up of the District's financial audit by the Washington State Auditor's Office, results of Apollo Solutions' energy audit on several District facilities, and a recent Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts section meeting.

With no further business, Citron adjourned the regular session at 7:53 p.m.



Board President, Todd Citron

Attest: 

Recording Secretary, Rachael Hope

Minutes approved by motion at ☒ Regular ☐ Special Board Meeting on June 24, 2026