

Scatchet Head Water District

SCATCHET HEAD WATER DISTRICT (SHWD)  
ISLAND COUNTY WASHINGTON

Minutes for April 25, 2023 – Special Meeting, 10:00AM

MEETING PLACE

Scatchet Head Community Club Building, 3742 Driftwood Drive, Clinton, WA  
and, online through Zoom

IN ATTENDANCE:

Commissioner Lipoti  
Commissioner Mach  
Commissioner Mullins

ABSENT:

None

ALSO PRESENT:

Nathan Driscoll, Nik ? – King Water Company, Curt Schoenfelder, Melanie  
Mankameyer, Wilson Engineering

COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Tom Peterson, David Mach, Loretta and Rick Collar, Peter Sprinz, Drea and Jordan  
Boyer, Kathryn McClean, Will Sperling,

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Commissioner Lipoti.

Everyone was asked to introduce themselves. Then the meeting began with a discussion about the planned upgrades to the water system starting with the wells and proceeding along the path of the water to the treatment plant, reservoirs, and distribution system. Where alternatives, or expensive components were identified, the pros and cons for each were discussed. The total cost for the project was about \$1M over the budget and USDA loan, so cost savings need to be identified. There is an opportunity for an additional loan for \$500,000, but that will entail additional fees for water. The budget provided by Wilson Engineering was used to guide the discussion.

Source Improvements

The well pumps for wells 2 and 3 are to be replaced. That will require roof removal for Well 2 access. Well piping and electrical controls will be upgraded and replaced as necessary. The cost of a new emergency generator, propane tank and concrete pad was included, but after discussion with community members, it has been eliminated. Considerations included that the tank reservoirs contain enough water for 5 days, generally electrical outages occur in winter when fewer people are in Scatchet Head, and water conservation measures instituted early in an electrical outage can extend the water availability for greater than 5 days.

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### Pumphouse and treatment improvements

The project includes an improvement in the backwash pond. Some of the alternatives were discussed, but they are costly. The “bare bones” alternative was deemed adequate, particularly since the rest of the treatment system upgrades will ensure that backwash water will be about 1/5 the amount currently. Therefore less water will be discharged to the backwash pond.

The project includes a new filtration system which will remove Arsenic as well as iron and manganese. Currently, to achieve acceptable drinking water limits for Arsenic, the water from SCWD’s two wells must be blended in the reservoir. If the Arsenic limits are lowered by EPA (currently under consideration) or the Arsenic levels increase in the source water, a new filtration system will be needed. Also, Manganese limits are under consideration for a tighter standard. The current filtration system is not adequate to meet these limits, and has exceeded its useful life. A pilot study with the ATEC filtration system was undertaken in November of 2022 on site at Guemes Avenue, using our water. However, it did not remove enough Arsenic. So a second pilot study was performed in January 2023, and with the addition of permanganate and ferric chloride, the ATEC system can remove manganese, iron, and arsenic. Operators from King Water attested to the ease of use, and reliability of the ATEC system which was installed in one of their other systems. The ATEC system is more efficient, and will result in much lower backwash, thus conserving water. Some discussion occurred about the need to replace the filtration system now, since the District is able to meet drinking water standards. It was highly recommended by both Wilson Engineering and King Water that the ATEC system be installed.

Discussion moved to the issue of a SCADA system, which is a sensor system that enables the Commissioners to set alarms for when the reservoir is depleted or pumps do not go on as scheduled. Due to the complexity of the sensor system, the cost of transmitting the data, the “holes” in the cell service, and many other complications, it was decided to eliminate the SCADA system in the project.

Discussion then turned to the map of the distribution system and what priorities should be set for replacement of piping. The group discussed various pros and cons. Lower priority areas included Blakely North, since that segment was not contiguous with the rest of the replacements. The area of highest priority was determined to be the core of the system, down Harper to a segment of Blakely, down George all the way to Driftwood, and along Driftwood to the clubhouse.

Two pressure relief valves (near the well building and on the intersection of Fidalgo and George) would be eliminated in favor of a new PRV on George.

The section of Fidalgo along the recent slide was debated. There was consideration of eliminating that section, but that would create a very long dead end and eliminate one of the loops in the system. This could lead to stagnant water in the lines and a lowering of

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water quality for residents. That area would be carefully replaced due to the landslide potential.

Another loop was discussed along Periwinkle and Mitford. This loop could improve water quality in that area and eliminate other dead ends in the system. This is also a rather high priority.

On the map, there is consideration of a loop from the end of Hubble to the end of Driftwood. Engineering for this loop was not included in the package because it was deemed impractical and expensive. General agreement that this area should not be touched.

Lower priority was assigned to replacement of the area of Driftwood to the left going down George. Also lower priority was the area of Driftwood beyond the Asbestos Concrete pipe at the clubhouse. Some of that piping is already 4 inch PVC, and does not need replacement.

Dave Mullins filled everyone in on the status of the loan and the need for additional loan money. Peter Sprinz asked if we had considered an assessment rather than borrowing more money. Dave explained that people have trouble paying their water bill now, and that an assessment would likely lead to more accounts being in arrears.

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 12:30, and the Commissioners met with Wilson Engineering to go over scheduling, permitting, site preparation, preparation for additional loans, and other business related items.

Curt Schoenfelder conducted a brief walkdown of the driveways along Driftwood to determine the degree of difficulty in pipe replacement. Additionally, the placement of the new hydrant was discussed. It will go next to the playground as the best access for the fire department but not likely to be impacted by anyone backing down the boat access.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00PM.

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Commissioner Mullins, Treasurer

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Jill Lipoti - President

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Commissioner Mach – V.P.