

Scatchet Head Water District

SCATCHET HEAD WATER DISTRICT (SHWD)
ISLAND COUNTY WASHINGTON

Minutes for November 21, 2023
7pm

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, Courtney Erickson, both of King Water

COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Tom Peterson, Drea and Jordan Boyer,

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Commissioner Lipoti. Commissioner Mach read the Land Acknowledgement.

Public Comment

None at this time.

Minutes

Since the October 17, 2023 minutes could not be located, these minutes were not acted upon. They will be approved at the December meeting.

Approval of minutes from the November 8, 2023 special meeting were moved by Dave Mullins and seconded by Jaci Mach. Motion carried, unanimously approved.

Approval of Vouchers

The vouchers for the month were received and Courtney Erickson gave the bookkeeper report. A motion was made by Commissioner Lipoti that vouchers 11-1 through 11-7 in the amount of \$9,343.49 plus EFT 11 (1) in the amount of \$723.50 be approved. Commissioner Mullins seconded the motion. Motion carried, unanimously approved.

Meeting minutes

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Review of Financials

Cash in the operating account as of October 31st was \$128,082.94. Short term asset Fund had a balance of \$34,626.69. Emergency Fund had a balance of \$280,698.98.

Accounts Receivable

The balance due on water bills was \$9,484.25, which includes past due accounts of \$3983.85. One account with a past due amount of \$2,883.63 had the meter removed. One lien was removed. After discussion about how to encourage people to pay their past due amounts, it was agreed that certified letters would be sent to the accounts identified on the overdue list.

Review operating reports

Nate Driscoll reviewed the operating reports. There is excessive water loss due to the backwash (20%) and unidentified leaks (20%) in the system. It was agreed that the backwash will be further reduced, and that the water from the suspected leak can be monitored and tested for PAHs.

Old Business

Concern was expressed about whether NW Natural Water can manage the system with a staff that is not in Washington state. Will all of the necessary certifications be obtained before Sandra Bodamer retires from King Water?

PSE has denied the claim from SHWD for the power surge that caused the booster pumps to fail. PSE directed SHWD to appeal to WA UTC, however, when the UTC was contacted, they explained that they do not have authority to review PSE's denial of the claim. UTC suggested that SHWD write to our state representative to pass a bill to give that authority to the UTC.

SHWD discussed whether to pursue this with an attorney, and Commissioner Mullins will ask our legal counsel about how much that might cost, and whether it would be cost effective to pursue. Meanwhile, it was agreed that the cost should come from the short term asset fund rather than the operating fund, and a resolution to that effect will be presented in the December meeting.

With regard to the System Upgrade Project, the Public Works Board (PWB) underwriters have contacted SHWD and said that the current fee structure is insufficient to support the payback of the loan. They requested additional information. After discussion, the Commissioners agreed to raise the rates by passing a resolution in the December meeting. An additional \$80/year per rate payer will be necessary to support the loan.

The Easements for the project have been obtained and are being submitted to the County for approval in permits.

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An additional Shoreline permit is required and an additional firm has been hired by Wilson Engineering to obtain the necessary information.

Various forms for the USDA are in the process of being completed before a meeting with USDA is set up to approve moving forward to bid.

Action Items – see attached
Radio Drill Statistics – see attached.

New Business

Credentials for a new webmaster were presented and Gail from Tranquil Computer was hired. Julie was thanked for all of her service to the SHWD and a smooth transition is expected. PFAS testing results will be added to the website due to the public's interest in this "forever" chemical. The results show Non-detect for SHWD.

The bid from Brandon Zimmerman was discussed and it was rejected as being too high. Commissioner Lipoti will contact Brandon to see if he would offer a lower bid since the scope of the project is much less than what he anticipated.

The Whidbey Island Conservation District visited the George Drive Treatment facility property and looked at the draining situation. They will provide an engineer to take a look and provide steps to improve the drainage. All documentation from the geotechnical engineer and the correspondence with Island County's Public Works Department was provided to the Conservation District to assist the engineer's assessment. It appears that stormwater drainage pipe under Samish Court is blocked, but whose responsibility is that?

Public Comment

Tom Peterson explained the color coding for fire hydrants and the importance of quick connects for functioning hydrants. The Commissioners agreed to pursue replacement of the connections on the hydrants with "quick connections" and asked King Water to look into purchasing the needed parts.

Jordan and Alexandria Boyer strongly objected to the projected raise in rates and expressed concern for others on fixed income. The Commissioners agreed to consider having the ability to pay monthly to spread out the payment since it is billed quarterly. Commissioners also expressed sympathy for the rate-payers, but also noted that SHWD's rates are not higher than most of the other districts on the island. They also reiterated that the system is highly susceptible to failures and needs a large influx of money to repair and maintain the system. The Commissioners have borrowed money at the lowest rates available from federal and State sources to be able to make the investment necessary in the infrastructure.

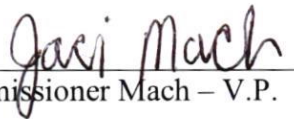
Meeting minutes

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The meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM.



Commissioner Mullins, Treasurer



Commissioner Mach – V.P.



Jill Lipoti - President