

Whidbey Island Water Systems Association

General Membership Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2020

I. Call to Order

John Lovie called to order the regular meeting of the Whidbey Island Water System Association General Membership Meeting at 5:00 pm on June 18, 2020 online via zoom.

II. Quorum Call

Confirmation of a quorum was made.

III. Approval of Agenda

Folks were instructed if they had objections or additions to the Agenda to 'raise hand' the absence of hand raising indicated approval.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Perry presented minutes for December 12, 2020 General Membership meeting and January 17, 2020 Special meeting-PFAS rule making. Formal approval will be deferred until the next meeting.

PFAS UPDATE: DOH DEREK PELL. The January meeting comments were approved to submit to the State. John did receive some questions from the newspaper. Derek Pell gave update on rule-making process. The comment period ended shortly after our January 17th special meeting. DOH is working on rescheduling strategy due as progress has been interrupted due to COVID. The comment period resulted in many diverse comments from industry and community water systems. The comments are being compiled, subject matter experts are framing response and looking how it fits into rule. This summary document will be available to the public and presented to the State Board of Health in mid-August. The BOH meeting should result in policy direction.

V. Treasurer's Report

Bethel Hart presented the Treasurer's Report. As of May 29, bank balance is \$19,400.00 we've received \$3856.00 in dues, \$2220.00 is outstanding, Hart will mail paper invoices. Year to date spending is \$1658, \$1000.00 for insurance and the remainder for post service, seminars and supplies. PayPal account to be set up for 2021 to receive electronic payments for seminars, workshops or dues. Apprenticeship program progress was gaining traction when COVID hit. Hart working on promising opportunities with Evergreen Rural Water.

VI. Announcements

Working to reschedule Asset Management Workshop. Next Quarterly Scheduled Sept 17th Uncertain if it will be online or we have reserved Coupeville rec hall as it will allow for social distancing. DOH has an online 2 hour asset management workshop.

SPECIAL GUEST: Jim Patton. Derek Pell presented Jim Patton with 'Commitment to Excellence' award for his contributions to drinking water contributions.

VII. Meeting Program –COVID-19 Issues and Resources. DOH-Denis Mechaginic. No in person meetings, zoom format, and staff working remotely can expect slight delay for project reports and plans. Office staff has been through social distancing and mask training. Sanitary Surveys are approved as of two weeks ago. Limited time will be spent in the field. Participants to 1 representative at the pumphouse onsite. DOH staff is still available via phone calls and emails. DOH Northwest Manager Bob James will be delaying retirement until the end of August. Sam Perry will cover for 6 months.

DOH-Jennifer Kropack- DOH Mike Means sends out daily and weekly updates regarding COVID. Working full time remotely. Office visit one day per week. Working with Island, Skagit county planning on multiple plan reviews. Working with Governors group regarding water shut offs. Small systems may not be able to absorb non-payments and shouldn't be treated the same as larger systems. Patton proposed the board consider aiding community systems struggling due to COVID. John will investigate possibilities and post information. Jennifer recommends writing a letter to congress representatives. SRF loans can work with systems to extend payments. Discussion took place regarding payments. King water handles billing for 92 different water systems, late fees are stopped assessing fees in April. Reminder statements are being sent.

AWWA-Jeff Lundt. AWWA website (www.Awwa.org) offers information about financial impacts, they have many surveys and shared information from USEPA, CDC, Rural Water, AWWA. Utilities are sharing experiences, and helpful document templates all available online.

ISLAND COUNTY- Aneta. County resources have been stretched thin, they are slowly reopening to the public but maintain regular business.

Minutes submitted by: Randi Perry

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KING WATER- Sandra Bodamer. Social distancing practices in place. No staff has been sick, and the focus is staying healthy. All normal services are being provided. Staff is required to wear masks and alternative service plans are in place. Chlorinated systems take priority and the smaller systems would be fit in as time available. Thankfully staff has not fallen ill.

Floor was open to discussion/questions.

Adjournment John Lovie adjourned the meeting at 7:00 pm