

2023 Annual Meeting Minutes of the Westside Water Association

Thursday, May 18, 2023 – Remote via Zoom - Meeting called to order at 7:03 P.M.

Board members attending: At-Large Peter Meyers, Treasurer Jim Cross, Secretary Holly Shull

Board members absent: President Jeff Thurlow, Vice President Adrian Witherspoon

Total association members needed to achieve quorum: 60

WWA members attending: 32; represented by proxy: 83. Total 115.

Quorum achieved.

The minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting were approved as written.

All pertinent documents for this meeting are posted at <http://www.westsidewater.org/2023annualmtg.html>
There are also a number of historical documents on the WWA website that WWA members are encouraged to review.

Treasurer's Report – Jim Cross. The WWA balance sheet, P&L and budget for the next year are posted on the WWA website. The WWA financial position is very strong, with \$288,000 in cash assets. The sale of 4 shares allowed WWA to fully pay the association back for the purchase of the Back40 well. The KC ROW account is fully funded. With interest rates up, funds are being invested in CDS. Banking was changed from USBank to Chase this year. ACH is still pending. Water sales were down last year due to last May & June being very cool and wet, and expenses were up, but looking at weather forecasts and historical sales, it is expected WWA will make up the shortfall by the end of this year. WWA is in very good shape and putting money aside for things we are going to need in the future.

Member Financial Audit Report: WWA finances were reviewed by Maggie Aspland this year. The report is posted on the 2023 annual meeting webpage.

President Report – Peter Meyers presenting for Jeff Thurlow. The President's report is posted on the 2023 Annual Meeting webpage. We all assume that water is safe to drink and that there is plenty of it, without paying much attention to what is involved in making that happen. The technical knowledge of Doug Dolstad and Pat Call is remarkable and we are very grateful for their work. A challenge for WWA is the transfer of that institutional knowledge forward. The ability of WWA to provide safe drinking water has become much more secure. With purchase of the Back40 well, we are better able to handle peak demand and are confident WWA can provide clean quality water in the future. The Board took a conservative approach re selling water shares, selling 4 shares this year and pausing for two years. Peter was involved with the committee that spent an enormous amount of time listening to the membership, reconsidered the approach to share sales, and worked to get it right. Many of the scenarios anticipated by the committee and board were quite valuable and the water share sales went quite smoothly. Adrian Witherspoon was a leader in that effort and we are going to miss his charts and diagrams and his ability to run a very concise and efficient zoom meeting.

Peter noted that current WWA insurance coverage situation is fine, and Doug and he continue to look for the best coverage.

Manager's Report – Doug Dolstad

Doug welcomed newcomers to WWA and hopes they feel a sense of welcome on the island, on the westside and with the Westside Water Association and that they will choose to get involved in some way. Doug is proud of the community effort to take care of our own water, which is essential for life.

Doug reports that the manager's job scores really high in satisfaction on the technical, social and organizational level. Doug appreciated the last board – people who got along, asked good questions, didn't hesitate to disagree, but were interested to find the best approach to issues. Knowing that one of the concerns has been what "happens when Doug leaves", Doug has been looking for someone who has the quality of character, who cares for this community and introduced Paul Huss whom he has been training to sink his feet in the soil for WWA. Paul introduced himself and looks forward to learning the ropes with the help of Doug Dolstad, Pat Call and Steve Rubicz, and meeting the community.

Doug thanked outgoing Vice President, Adrian Witherspoon, who navigated complicated issues for WWA. Adrian is going back to black fly country, in Maine. Good luck!

Big thanks also went to Jeff Thurlow, outgoing President who has served on the Board for six years. Doug encouraged everyone to go read Jeff's President's report, posted on the 2023 Annual Meeting webpage at westsidewater.org. His report is a personal reflection on his participation in Westside Water and is really worth reading.

Finally, thanks to Jim Cross, outgoing treasurer. It was a busy year for the treasurer as WWA changed banks and there were associated problems that had to be dealt with. Thank you, Jim! Doug noted that while ACH is not yet up and running, members can pay their bill via Zelle. If help is needed with that, contact Doug – manager@westsidewater.org.

The WWA system is working well. There were problems finding where the old main intersected with the new main down by the youth hostel on Cove Road (Last 800' of new main line is costing ~\$60,000, as compared with \$12,000 in 2002 when the project began. The other big expense this year was a repair to a large automatic valve installed in the 1970s, when King County financed the Cove tank. They built the tank, the pump house and put in an oversized valve that failed this past year – a \$5-6000 expense.

Doug emphasized that if members notice anything serious ever happening with water, it is absolutely essential to call WWA. The old WWA #: 206-567-4568 will get you to the phone tree and who to call for what and it routes directly to Manager mobile phones. Shoutout to Jessica and Scott who live higher up on Cove Road and call in whenever that pump fails.

Doug thanked Pat Call, who is the emeritus board member who has really helped Jim and Doug, tracking financials of WWA. Money is important and one of the reasons that WWA is doing well is that people are watching where it comes from and where it goes, and trying to do appropriate things, for example adjusting rates and choosing what capital projects to undertake.

WWA pumps about 15 million gallons per year. 10- 15% of that goes unaccounted for on an annual basis. Leaks are hard to find. Paul and Doug will be tracking down a leak by the Cove tank, starting off the KC ROW, to keep things simple, but it may involve cutting under the road to find the leak. There are now 238 connections to the WWA system. The system is approved by DOH, for 259 connections. The board consulted legal counsel to review the whole share sales process last year. It was determined the board had discretion to only offer 4 shares for sale this year, and then wait two years.

Doug Dolstad and Barbara Larsen are offering their farm as a venue for a WWA potluck this year and are seeking three (3) volunteers who are good on the logistical end of creating such an event. Holly Shull signed up as one of those volunteers. Anyone who would like to help, contact Doug at Manager@westsidewater.org.

Global Water Initiative Report – Mary Margaret Briggs delivered a report on the WWA charitable giving to El Porvenir. This is the 17th year of the program, started by Enid Dolstad. This year the support enabled one community to dig a well and another to create 33 double pit latrines. El Porvenir invites WWA members to participate on one of these projects to see their work, so that can be arranged. We enjoy this great water

system here and it is nice to be able to pay it forward. The report is posted on the WWA website on the 2023 Annual Meeting webpage. Any member can opt in to donate by contacting Doug Dolstad – manager@westsidewater.org

Member Questions:

An inquiry was made re the status of a generator at the Cove tower for power outages. Doug responded that it will be better to put a generator at the 156th tank (which will still save Cove Road in times of low pressure) because it will only require a single phase transformer at 156th station, as opposed to the Cove tank which is a 3-phase system. Purchasing a generator is planned.

In response to an inquiry, Peter Meyers noted that Bill Morse, Trish McDonald, John Casperson, Jenny Beal were members who purchased the 4 water shares offered in 2023. Everyone who wanted a share this year was able to purchase one. Information re the water share sales process can be found in the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and in Article VI of the By Laws, posted on the WWA website. Members can also contact the Board if they have any questions – board@westsidewater.org

Old business – No old business

New business – Election of new board members. We have 4 candidates for 3 board positions – Sam Lanier, David Hawkins, Johnny Struck and Doug Swan. Peter asked for a brief bio from each candidate.

Sam Lanier lives across from Bethel Park Church on 148th and has been drinking WWA water for 31 years. She has served on medical and coop preschool boards on the island, raised a couple of kids on Vashon, is a pretty big gardener and feels it is her turn to serve.

David Hawkins –A member of WWA for 40 years, becoming a permanent resident on Olympic Drive two years ago. Retired professor of sociology from UW, taught in the School of Social Work and did research on adolescent child health. David loves the democratic process that WWA went through in the last year re water share sales. The Board with the Committee did such excellent work - democracy in action at the very local community level and Doug would like to be part of that and contribute to the Westside Water Board.

Johnny Struck – living on Vashon for 3 years, moved to Cove Road in November 2022. Johnny is pro conservation and works in business transformation in supply chain and finance and can help in such operations. Wants to work at the local level and get involved. Johnny invites neighbors to say hi if you see him around.

Doug Swan – has been drinking WWA water for 28 years and is a retired educator, 15 years at Chautauqua Elementary and like Doug mentioned has eaten a lot of cookies and seen a lot of community members stand up in meetings and volunteer to serve our water system, and Doug feels it is his turn.

A poll was posted on Zoom and attending WWA members submitted their vote via the poll. Proxies were calculated and added to the poll results. Sam Lanier, Doug Swan and David Hawkins received the most votes. A motion was made and seconded and their election was approved.

In closing, Peter Meyers noted that a follow up meeting with the new board will be scheduled soon.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Seconded and approved at 8.10 PM