

Westside Water Association Annual Membership Meeting

Date: May 24, 2018

Location: Vashon Havurat

Board members attending: Pat Call, Judy Olson, Amy Cole, Jennifer Pratt

Total association members needed to achieve a quorum: 58

Association members in attendance: 34

Association members represented by proxy: 48

Total association members represented: 82 quorum is achieved

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM

President Pat Call introduced the Board, and new members Daniel & Jennifer Loffer.

Meeting minutes review (Amy Cole)

2017 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

Treasury report (Judy Olson)

- Completed conversion to Quickbooks.
- Sheila and Doug received COLA raises.
- over last 3 FY, bank accts grown by 91K.
- about 139K total funds over 3 accounts.

Q: have we discussed investing some of this \$\$ to get some interest? A: not yet. New board should consider.

President's report (Pat)

- Thanks to Jennifer and Judy for their board service.
- Thanks to MMB for once again conducting a financial health review for WWA.
- Thanks to Joel Hille for helping review the comprehensive Water System Plan.
- Introduction to Jim Gross, our new consulting engineer, has helped us with mapping and planning.
- KC ROW Tax

King County has instituted a Right of Way tax for utilities that use their ROW. Stated County goal is to collect \$5/month per customer. There was uncertainty as to whether this represented the total amount, or \$5 per utility. 22 districts are suing the district to contest this tax; our district is part of the suit. Hearing is on July 27; if no hearing outcome, trial is set for Jan 22, 2019. KC preemptively sued these districts to bring the issue before a court quickly. They assess ROW Value by "over the fence" methodology, i.e. expensive looking properties are assessed for more. We believe they have overestimated the length of pipe in the ROW by 25% or so; we have planned to appeal the assessment. Earnings goal is \$10M per year from this tax; proceeds will go into general fund. Power (PSE) will also be affected, as is sewer, etc. Our assessment is \$30K, or

\$4.50 per billing period. Board had decided to pass the fee through to members starting in May, which we did not end up doing in May. This charge will appear on bills starting in July.

- Excise tax rebate

We realized we had accrued more money for excise taxes than we needed, due to no excise tax charged on capital projects, and we plan to return that as a rebate to the members. This rebate (\$6.20 per member) will appear on the next two billing cycles as an offset to the ROW tax.

- A2 well assessment

A2 project will be paid off in full by March 2019. Q: how does our financial picture compare to other water systems? A: hard to say b/c diff systems have different needs, but the board has created savings targets for each account to meet specific savings goals. Q: can we invest in nonperishable materials now to serve future capital projects (buy now before prices go up)? A: maybe; the board can look at investment options for our liquid cash to look for cost and savings efficiencies.

- Capital improvement plan discussion

We underspent CIP budget from last year, a bit. Cove & 115th replacement, well points study started but suspended when it appeared to be a bigger project than anticipated. 115th and 121st on Cove replacement will be done this year. We expect to spend \$30-35K on those 2 projects.

- Small water system plan

In early phases of planning. WWA last plan was 1996, totally different sources today. So far, we have worked to understand our recent supply history from 2011-2018. 100 GPM average daily flow was fairly common until we installed A2. A2 well has changed the supply picture dramatically. We have not had to turn the canyon well on in close to 2 years. Values are much better behaved now, which helps us better predict how it will behave if we put more stress on the system. Water height plot shows A2 hits maximum height of water column in July, lowest in the winter. If this pattern persists, we have the least water when we need the least and vice versa. We need to understand and validate this better. Also anomalous compared to other systems on the island. Q: what % of water in the past year has come from Anderson? A: estimate 80% (turns out it is 62% over the past year). Q: How much arsenic in our sources: A: between 0-2 ppb in A1,A2 and well points. 33 ppb in the /canyon well (which we haven't turned on in over 2 years).

- Water quality report of Shinglemill

Vashon Nature Center performed analysis of water quality in Shinglemill. Result: water quality is not great. Species diversity of bugs in water, 3rd worst on the island. IGA parking lot is one of the headwaters of Shinglemill creek. Car wash in IGA parking lot changed their activity to corral their waste water because of this study. A reminder to stay aware and active.

- Emergency preparedness

Stay active in NERO groups so we all care for each other when the Big One comes.

Manager's Report (Doug)

- This is Doug's 26th year doing this. He is grateful for all of us, and that we have great water.
- Please talk to Doug if you have any cross connections on your system so there are no accidents that cause problems for people. Especially if you have a spring, a well or another water source.
- Water quality testing. We test every month for bacteria and other contaminants. Consumer confidence report contains a link to the DOH website that contains quality reports going back to 1983. There is data available to learn more about the water quality.
- Let Doug know if you see water on the road, or where it shouldn't be. We want to try and identify leaks in the system, either on the homeowner side or on the system side. Almost all the leakage is in the gravity part of the system, south of 148th.
- Take a walk into the Canyon. It is pretty; and we are a primary stakeholder in the health of that stream. We have authority to take surface water from it.

Q: are we still oversold on shares? A: yes; we are permitted for 227 while we have 232 connections, so we are 5 oversubscribed. Q: what about catchment? DOE: water commons, do they need a water right? A: they determined that water harvesting via cistern from the roof is OK. They are mostly interested in the quality.

Global Water Initiative. (Jennifer)

Our donations go to El Porvenir's sanitation, health or watershed, education. We have 85 contributing members; we paid \$2779 between May 2017-April 2018.

Old Business

How do we know when we are charging the right amount? Are we charging too much?

Jennifer compared costs between different water systems on Vashon. Our rates were determined to be quite favorable compared to other districts. We collected \$10,000 more than we expected to this past year. The Board is aware of this, will be keeping tabs on revenue vs. cost, and reducing rates if warranted.

New Business

Q: NERO groups: where would we get water in the 9.9 earthquake? A: the 156th tank. (or various streams and springs – be prepared to treat water)

Election of new Board Members

Two people have stepped forward for board service.

- Richard Perret has been on Vashon since 1987. He has run a small water system!
- Patte Wagner has been here since late 1989. Ran PS co-op, Chase, lending construction loans, financial skills and expertise!

A motion was made and seconded to elect this slate of candidates. The slate was elected to the Board by unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM