

**WHATCOM COUNTY WATER DISTRICT NO. 13  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING JANUARY 21, 2026**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A hybrid Special meeting was held January 21, 2026, via Zoom and in-person at the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center. Commissioners present in person were Anthony Au, Richard Whitson, and Robert Vandenhaak. Commissioner Rebecca Cayen was present via Zoom. Employees present were Cheryl Klessig, Eli Gunn-Hirsch and Hannah Palm. Gray & Osborne Engineers Roger Kuykendall and Jay Swift were present via Zoom. One member of the public was present via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by President Robert Vandenhaak.

**Review of Draft Chapters 6, 7, 8, & 9 of the Engineering Report/General Sewer Plan for the upgraded Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)**

Chapters 1-5 were previously submitted to the Board of Commissioners for review. Chapters 10 & 11 will be combined into one chapter and include the capital improvement plan and financial/sewer rate study.

Chapter 6 includes the population projections for 2025, 2045, and 2065 from the draft Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan, and projects the Equivalent Residential Units (EDUs) and flows up to full build-out. Stormwater infiltration is included in the projected flows. Sewer mains are adequate for the year 2065. The Green Valley Lift Station will have to be updated to be able to accommodate the increased flows as build-out continues. Sewer mains will need to be cleaned regularly.

Chapter 7 includes much of the information that is in the AKART study and discusses that the current lagoon system treatment plant is unable to meet the current standards of 85% removal for Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS).

Chapter 8 discusses the recommended WWTP alternatives that the district could build.

1. Oxidation Ditch Process, which is similar to the WWTP in Everson, WA.
2. AeroMod SEQUOX Cyclical Aeration Biological Treatment Process
3. Sequencing Batch Reactor (SBR)

Roger & Jay recommend option 3 as the most cost-effective to build and maintain and has the most flexibility for future expansion.

Chapter 9 discusses biosolids treatment and management. The biosolids produced from a mechanical plant need to be removed and disposed of on a weekly versus annual basis. The cheapest option is hauling the biosolids to Tjoelker Farms, but only during the summer months. A solution for winter months needs to be found. Re-using one of the old lagoons for biosolids storage could be a possibility, but the lagoon would need to be covered to protect it from rain. Another concern would odors in the neighborhood impacting the swellings close to the WWTP.

**CONCLUDE**

There being no further business Robert Vandenhaak concluded the meeting at 8:00 pm. These Minutes were presented and approved at a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners on 2/24/2026.

APPROVED: *[Signature]*

DATE: 2/24/26

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]* 2/24/26