

**WHATCOM COUNTY WATER DISTRICT NO. 13
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING AUGUST 17, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

Hybrid Special meeting August 10, 2022 – @ 6:03 meeting was held via Zoom and in-person at the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center.

Commissioners present were Robert Vandenhaak, Richard Whitson, Jackue Fowler, Anthony Au and Rebecca Cayen. Also in attendance were District employees Brenda Gamache and Cheryl Thompson, Roger Kuykendall and John Markus from Gray & Osbourne. Members of the public present were Jamie White, Kevin Zender and Jack Hovenier.

Wastewater Capacity Analysis Report

Roger presented an overview of the current capacity of the wastewater treatment plant. Effluent pumps are pumping at a rate of 50 gallons per minute instead of the 170 gallons per minute the pumps are rated for. The main lines were cleaned a couple of years ago: the lines could be surveyed with a camera to see if there are blockages.

Roger presented 4 options for upgrading the wastewater treatment plant. Cost estimates for the 4 options will be provided by mid-September. Also presented were interim improvements that could add 200-300 new connections with a cost estimate of \$1.1 million.

There was a discussion of financing options. Grant funding is possible under hardship guidelines if the sewer rates are at 2% of ratepayers' median income. A rate increase of \$5 per month would reach the 2% threshold. Grant requests need to be submitted by mid-October. Jack proposed that Whatcom County could be approached for American Rescue Plan funds to help fund the upgrade since Whatcom County supports increasing affordable housing in the Columbia Valley UGA. A loan request could be submitted to the Washington State Revolving Fund.

Jack and Jamie requested a "Letter of Intent to Serve" for their respective future developments.

Sewer manholes need to be looked at to make sure they are at the proper height after last year's flooding events which caused the manholes to be submerged.

CONCLUDE

There being no further business Robert Vandenhaak concluded the meeting at 7:46 pm. These Minutes were presented and approved at a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners on 9/27/22.

APPROVED: _____



DATE: _____

9/27/22



