

**WHATCOM COUNTY WATER DISTRICT NO. 13
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING JUNE 14, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Hybrid Special meeting June 14, 2023, at 6:00 pm meeting was held via Zoom and in-person at the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by President Robert Vandenhaak.

Commissioners present were Anthony Au, Rebecca Cayen, Richard Whitson, Talitha Shiroma, and Robert Vandenhaak. Staff present were Carson Cothren and Cheryl Thompson and Nick Duran via Zoom. Roger Kuykendall was present in person and John Markus from Gray & Osborne Engineering was present via Zoom, and 2 members of the public was present in person.

DOE Permit/Pond Liners/Table 12 Funding

The DOE Discharge permit is in draft mode right now. Roger and John have submitted comments for review, with input from Nick. Comments include concerns that some parameters in the draft permit are too rigid and do not take into consideration what is upstream, changing the CBOD limit, inaccuracies in the history of the plant and the fact sheet that DOE is using to set the limit is not correct. Data reported to DOE in the past was inaccurate and DOE changed some data, but not all the errors. DOE will reduce the TSS/BOD from 65/85 to 45/65 and acknowledged the limits in the previous permit were a mistake. Roger and John asked to add Well E to the drain field monitoring process and DOE is using 1 standard deviation instead of 2.396 as per state statute. John thinks that DOE will reach out for further discussion before the draft permit comes out. Once the draft permit is issued, there is a 30-day public comment period. The new permit will be issued about 2-3 months after review.

The pond liners in lagoons 1 and 2 need to be replaced. In the 2011 Engineering Report they were scheduled to be replaced. There are new regulations from DOE about pond liners and leak tests. They need to be tested once every 5 years for leaks and the lagoons must be emptied to be tested. The limit is a loss of 70 gallons per day, which is a hole the size of a pin head. Roger will contact DOE to see if the replacement can wait until there is a new engineering report for the treatment plant. Steve Hood at DOE has said that they need to be replaced by July 2024. Double liners with leak detection equipment cost approximately \$110,000 each 3-4 years ago. There are also questions about how the pond liners would be anchored with the closeness of the lagoons to each other. Next steps are as follows: 1. Get the permit; 2. Create a new Engineering Report and get DOE's approval; 3. 1 year for design; and 4. 1 year for construction.

The final funding list for Table 12 will be released this month. Contracts for the loan/forgivable loan will be in September 2023. Once the funding list is out and the discharge permit is issued, contacting Whatcom County government for a conversation about funding assistance can happen.

Generator Bids/Renting one for the winter at Sprague Valley

Cheryl created a summary of the generator bids as they were not consistent. Carson will follow up with the bidders to see if we could rent-to-own a generator so we can have one this winter. There are questions around the old fuel tank's age and safety, disposal of the old generator and the fuel tank, if necessary, and warranties on the generators.

Engineering Statement of Qualifications Review

The Commissioners reviewed the Engineering Statement of Qualifications for Wilson Engineering and Gray & Osborne, Inc. Using a scoring/rating system for both firms, Gray & Osborne, Inc., the Commissioners scored Gray & Osborne higher than Wilson Engineering. *A motion was made and seconded to retain Gray & Osborne, Inc. as Whatcom County Water District 13's engineering firm. Motion carried 5-0.*

Drain Field Fencing

Richard and Anthony will walk the drain field to assess where people are accessing the drain field and how much fencing will be needed. The cost is approximately \$200 per 100 feet.

Red Mountain Irrigation Hook Up Cost

Jack needs 1 meter for this year and 1 meter for next year. Balfour Valley paid a water GFC charge for each of their water irrigation systems. Jack asked if there could be a temporary charge for the 2-3 years that the irrigation is needed, or if the GFC charge could be moved to a permanent connection later. To be discussed further at the next meeting.

CCR

RW/RC a motion was made and seconded to approve printing costs of \$300 for 400 copies of the CCR. Motion carried 5-0.

Security Cameras

Robert will talk with his son-in-law about online security cameras. Cheryl will look into the cost of a new DVR.

Cross Connection Control

There are concerns that Account 10126 may attempt to reconnect his water with a piece of pipe and jeopardize the water system. Carson will keep an eye on his meter to make sure that doesn't happen.

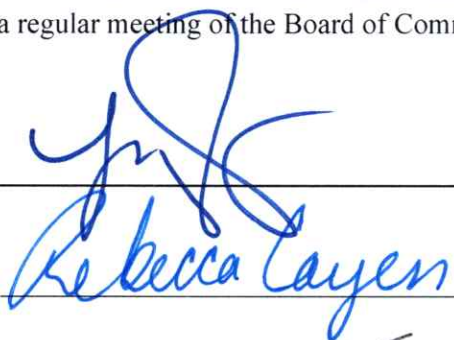
Water Meter Tampering Account 10126-Next steps

The certified letter has been attempted to be delivered to Account 10126 on 3 separate occasions, but no one has been home to accept the delivery. Cheryl will send a new letter regular mail and file a report with the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office. The district will wait a couple of weeks to see if the ratepayer gets in touch with the office. Deadline to be discussed at the regular meeting.

CONCLUDE

There being no further business Robert Vandenhaak concluded the meeting at 7:42 pm. These Minutes were presented and approved at a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners on 7/25/23.

APPROVED: _____



DATE: 7/25/2023

