

**WHATCOM COUNTY WATER DISTRICT NO. 13
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING JANUARY 10, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

A hybrid Special meeting was held January 10, 2024, via Zoom and in-person at the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center. Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Robert Vandenhaak. Commissioners present were Anthony Au, Rebecca Cayen, Richard Whitson, Robert Vandenhaak and Talitha Shiroma. Staff present were Cheryl Thompson and Carson Cothren present via Zoom. Gray & Osborne Engineers Roger Kuykendall and John Markus were present via Zoom. One member of the public was present.

DOE Permit

Gray & Osborne met with DOE to discuss the final permit and share their opinion that the permit is exceptionally restrictive, particularly the groundwater limits at the drain field. The background water quality needs to be taken into consideration by DOE when setting the enforcement limits. Also, the WWTP cannot remove nitrogen and sulfate from the effluent as the lagoon system is not designed to do so. The creation of the new engineering report for the upgraded WWTP will include a predicted impact to the groundwater, which could lead to a future revision of the permit. The District has the right to file an appeal of the permit to the Pollution Control Hearings Board by January 28, 2024. This would require hiring an environmental attorney firm to file the appeal on behalf of the District. The District will still be under the requirements of the new permit during the appeals process.

RC/TS a motion was made and seconded to hire an attorney from Foster Garvey to file an appeal of the SWD Permit issued by the Department of Ecology to the Pollution Control Hearings Board. Motion carried 5-0.

DOE Draft Agreement Meeting Update

A new draft agreement will be created when Gray & Osborne's assessment if Task 3 costs are submitted to DOE.

Hiring New OIT

Nick is working on the job description. A schedule, wage and benefits are to be determined.

Water: Wells

Both wells are not working in auto mode. Well #1 is offline while the electrical project is happening. Carson is running Well #2 manually. The signal wire is not communicating between the wells and the reservoirs. Valley Plumbing & Electric will help Carson determine if there is a break in the line somewhere with their detection equipment.

Water: Reservoirs

The reservoirs could be isolated from each other if there is a need for that in the future.

Water: Landslide

Rebecca showed a video she took of the slide activity at the reservoirs. 3 bids from geo technical firms to assess the potential for further slides, slope stability, and possible future mitigation were reviewed. *RC/AA a motion was made and seconded to approve Stratum Group to provide a geologic hazard assessment at the reservoirs. Motion carried 3-2.*

Water: Usage

Cheryl will investigate creating winterization inserts for the signs at the road.

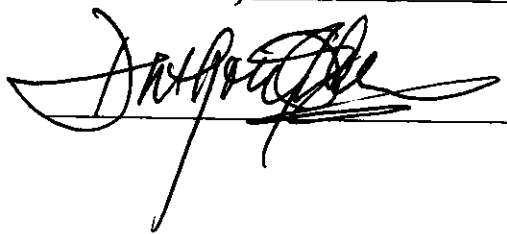
CONCLUDE

There being no further business Robert Vandenhaak concluded the meeting at 8:17 pm. These Minutes were presented and approved at a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners on 2/27/24.

APPROVED:







DATE: 02-27-2024