

SARATOGA WATER DISTRICT
ISLAND COUNTY WASHINGTON
Minutes for July 19, 2023 - Regular Meeting

MEETING PLACE

Baby Island Club, 3616 Saratoga Road, Langley WA

IN ATTENDANCE: Commissioners Keith Sorensen, Phil Prior and William Poss and Sandra Bodamer of King Water.

Absent: none

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Tasoff and Robert Bennion (engineers with DCG/Watershed)

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Commissioner Sorensen.

Commissioner Sorensen motioned the June 2023 meeting minutes be approved as written. Commissioner Prior seconded the motion. (*Motion carried, unanimously approved and passed*).

Commissioner Poss motioned vouchers 45 through 52 and ETF 23-7 for the month of July 2023 in the total amount \$31,942.76 be approved. Commissioner Prior seconded the motion. (*Motion carried, unanimously approved and passed*).

Cash in the Operations Maintenance account as of June 30, 2023 was \$174,269.07. A balance of \$218,220.43 is being carried in the Reserve Fund. Both accounts are in the Island County Treasurer's Fund.

The balance due on water bills was \$15,159.72 which includes past due accounts of \$443.60. A review of the past due accounts receivable was made and a discussion will be held next meeting on the action to be taken to get the balances collected.

Manager's report

- Sandra reported monthly quantity use appears normal for the season (discussion of water use volume below regarding Water Use Efficiency Report) and quality testing data within regulatory parameters except arsenic test data continues above MCL at 20ppb. Continued discussion of the arsenic treatment review by DCG Inc. as described below.

Old Business

- Continued discussion of the arsenic treatment system review/repairs with project engineers Jeff Tasoff and Robert Bennion of DCG/Watershed. They

Meeting minutes

provided a status of King Water actions to implement the recommendations presented by DCG/Watershed in their Memorandum dated May 15, 2023. DCG/Watershed responded to many questions regarding the arsenic treatment system and the proposed repairs.

Commissioners inquired about the recommended control panel reconfiguration (Sandra noted it can be done by local electrician such as Wayne AA Electric).

Commissioners inquired about the installation of a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system that collects data from various sensors and then sends this data to a central computer which then manages and controls the data. DCG/Watershed thought this could be helpful to manage the data and provide greater opportunity to control the arsenic treatment components. Costs to be investigated.

Sandra and DCG/Watershed were asked about using hand held arsenic and mag/iron test units to help facilitate dosing etc. Sandra reported that King Water has a DR800 and could be used to assist. However it was noted the DR800 has residual byproduct disposal issues. DCG/Watershed noted a weekly check could be useful but too much tweaking the system could be problematic.\

Commissioners inquired about potential loss of media from faulty compressor-Sandra noted two canisters were checked on no evidence of loss observed.

Commissioners emphasized the need for King Water to be proactive in maintenance and operations so as to avoid/minimize future equipment failures/problems. Commissioner Sorensen suggested having spare parts available so not to be caught short next time. DCG/Watershed said replacing solenoids with new is a good idea as well as having a spare mixer motor and dosing pump spare. Replacing the sight tube was noted also. Sandra will work with DCG/Watershed to obtain the parts.

Sandra reported that the supplier of the arsenic media (ATEC) now has it in stock and expecting shipment soon with anticipated delivery by the end of July. Jeff reported that a new type of filter media is not recommended by DCG/Watershed as it would require changes to various settings. Sandra reported the new arsenic tank valves and gaskets (same as existing) will also be ordered and expected to be delivered with the media. Sandra reported the chlorine and ferric pumps are available and will be ordered. They noted the treatment tanks underdrains will be cleaned and new gaskets installed with the new valves.

Commissioners asked about the ATEC system operations manual and developing a set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to have for staff reference at the pump house and with King Water. Commissioners stressed the importance

of all King staff to be properly trained and familiar with the system. DCG/Watershed can develop such an SOP.

Sandra noted once materials are delivered staff will get to the work ASAP and expects to take about two days to complete. DCG noted a validation testing will be conducted once the media and parts replaced. Given the size of the two reservoirs it may take about two weeks to flush out the water and fully replace with newly treated water. Matter tabled.

Sandra reported the previously recommended “pot perm soak” was not completed as it was considered a waste of time and money.

- Sandra reported the air compressor has been repaired by Jerry Beck.
- Continued discussion of the Cross Connection Survey. Sandra reported 5 letters sent to non-responsive customers and that she plans to personally phone two difficult customers to avoid a future problem. Commissioners emphasized this matter has been ongoing for many months and needs to be wrapped up. Sandra agreed. Matter tabled.
- Continued discussions of the Small Water System Management Plan (SWSMP) by DCG/Watershed including the action items noted in the referenced letter of SWSMP review by WA DOE dated May 18, 2023 including apparently past due actions noted as follows:

“It appears that provisions described in both water right files G1-25238 and G1-25458 have not been followed as prescribed. Chloride concentrations in April and August with coincident static water levels are to be submitted to Ecology by October 15 in accordance with both water right files. Static water levels in the wells must be monitored at least monthly and made available to Ecology upon request in accordance with water right file G1-25458. The most recent chloride submission is from 2003. Please note that water rights are issued on the condition that provisions will be followed”.

(It was noted that this correspondence from DOE was never received by SWD or King Water and Commissioner Poss had to request it from DOH).

Sandra and DCG/Watershed noted the requested information for years was reported to Island County hydrologist Doug Kelly who has retired. Robert Benion of DCG/Watershed will provide Sandra with a DOE contact for King Water to forward the requested data.

Jeff with DCG/Watershed noted a number of review items from DOH do not appear to be applicable and he will contact Jennifer Kropack of DOH to discuss.

Commissioners agreed to discuss the Small Water System Management Plan and the Short Lived Asset Component Inventory and Assessment table for discussion of action items in coming year. Matter tabled.

- The Board asked Sandra why the proposed edits to the Consumer Confidence Report for 2022 were not included in the formal Report mailed out. Sandra did not know what happened but posited that it was a clerical error as the older version was sent to the mailing by mistake. Discussed the noted nitrate testing violation. Sandra reported the violation was due to the testing not performed on time. It was agreed the CCR could have been clearer in this matter as well as in regards to the arsenic treatment violation and the response actions.
- Continued discussion about the current interest rates on Operations/Maintenance Fund and Reserve accounts. Sandra reported Resolution 23-2 approved in June to transfer \$100,000 from Operations to the Reserve (interest paying) Account was completed as reflected in the financial report.
- Continued discussion about setting up a District website. Commissioner Prior reported he is preparing a template and discussed the need for someone to maintain the website once live. Matter tabled.
- Continued discussion about setting up credit card payment system. Sandra reported the system is ready to be used and a notice will be sent to all customers with the next billing. Matter tabled.
- Continued discussions to develop a customer email contact list. Sandra noted that King Water is collecting data from returned survey. Matter tabled.
- Unable to continued discussion about paving access apron onto Reservoir Road at Saratoga Roads. Matter tabled.

New Business:

- Discussed Water Use Efficiency Report recently filed by King Water. Sandra reported the inaccuracy of well pumping data due to faulty well #3 pump meter (under reading). Cost to replace the meter with an 8 inch digital readout cost of \$9000. Commissioner Poss motioned King Water replace the well #3 meter for at a cost of \$9000 be approved. Commissioner Sorensen seconded the motion. *(Motion carried, unanimously approved and passed).*

Correspondence:

- Discussion of the “*Notice to Correct Violation*” from WA Department of Health received by Commissioner Sorensen via email on July 7, 2023. The Notice is in regards to non-compliance with the arsenic treatment system not meeting the MCL as of the first quarter of 2023. Commissioner Sorensen emailed a reply to

the DOH (Aniela Sidorska) on 7-13-23 acknowledging receipt of the email and that it will be discussed at this meeting.

Commissioners noted the Notice indicated “failure to follow regulations and directives set forth in enforcement letters the Department sent to your water system and purveyors”. Commissioners noted no such letters were received by SWD and Sandra indicated the same for King Water.

Commissioner Poss reported receiving a telephone call from Alexis Medina of DOH July 14, 2023 indicating a concern was sent to her from an unnamed customer about the nitrate issue in the Consumer Confidence Report which she explained to the customer that it was a testing violation and not an actual nitrate exceedance. She asked how the Commissioners and King Water are addressing the arsenic matter. Commissioner Poss described the problems with the system over the last year, the unsuccessful efforts of King Water to fix, the hiring of DCG/Watershed last fall, the frustrating time it took to get the report and the expected pending repairs to be completed as soon as parts are delivered. Commissioner Poss emailed a copy of the DCG/Watershed report to her and asked for copies of the referenced previous enforcement letters for our records.

It was agreed that that the Commissioners need to formally respond in writing to DOH and include a copy of the completed Public Notice form that Sandra will mail to all customers of SWD tomorrow. Also to be included will be a copy of a letter to be sent with the Public Notice form to all District customers further explaining the issue and status of repairs to the system. Commissioner Poss provided a draft letter and the Board agreed to have Commissioner Poss, as Board Secretary, formally respond to the DOH on behalf of the Board as soon as the confirmation of the Public Notice mailing is received from King Water.

Audience Participation: None

Commissioner Sorensen motioned that the meeting be adjourned at 8:45. Commissioner Prior seconded the motion. (*Motion carried, unanimously approved and passed*)

Commissioner Sorensen, President _____

Commissioner Poss - Secretary _____

Commissioner Prior – Treasurer _____