

SARATOGA WATER DISTRICT
ISLAND COUNTY WASHINGTON

Minutes for November 19, 2025 - Regular Meeting
MEETING PLACE

Baby Island Club, 3616 Saratoga Road, Langley WA

IN ATTENDANCE: Commissioners Keith Sorensen, Phil Prior and William Poss (remote)

Absent: none

ALSO PRESENT: none

Meeting called to order at 7:09 pm by Commissioner Sorensen.

Commissioner Sorensen motioned that the October 2025 meeting minutes be approved as written. Commissioner Poss seconded the motion. (***Motion carried, unanimously approved and passed.***)

Commissioner Poss motioned November vouchers 140-147 and ETF 25-11 for the month of November 2025 in the total amount \$23,652.95 be approved. Commissioner Sorensen seconded the motion. (***Motion carried, unanimously approved and passed.***)

Cash in the Operations Maintenance account as of October 31, 2025 was reported as \$125,794.28. Reserve Funds, including the reserve CD as of October 31, 2025 was reported as \$218,611.88. All accounts are managed by the Island County Treasurer.

The balance due on water bills was \$2308.77 and a past due amount of \$1966.33. A review of the accounts receivable dated Nov 19 was made. It was noted billing for the end of October have not been received yet-Commoner Poss will ask NWNWS for update on mailing bills. No action on late accounts was made.

Old Business-Operations

- **King/NWNWS asked to comment on** arsenic treatment system. Per Joanne Skaar : “The arsenic system is working as designed. We have not received any sample results exceeding the MCL and no notifications from the DOH have been received for Saratoga Water District”. It was noted that test results have not been showing the MCL any longer-Joanne asked the lab to include the MCL on future test results. Matter tabled.
- **King/NWNWS was asks for a response to questions after the August and September meetings about the** replacement of two frozen valves on McKay

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Road:

- Questions: 1. A suggestion to consider is leaving the two frozen valves in place and install one new valve in close proximity to replace the function?
- 2. And alternatively, one of the valves appears to be slightly offset from the main line to cap off a previously abandoned line and wondering if that one actually needs to be replaced as it's apparently no longer necessary?
- Per a telephone conference call with Commissioner Poss, Nick and Nate on 11-18 the following notes are shared: currently they're only able to open one hydrant and flush in one direction rather than be able to fully flush. If both frozen valves were left in place and they would still need to add two new valves in order to isolate and flush McKay properly and it would involve a larger cut out into McKay Road. The price difference would not be significant as they would need to add thrust block (and something else I didn't remember). For either project of replacing two valves, the water would be off one full day 9 to 5 and part of a second day. They would be able to isolate the shut off so it wouldn't affect the entire system but mostly the area around Mackay and Lone Lake Road. (I think we could ask for a map to show the areas of shut off so we could mail notices to those folks) They said they'd be available to talk further about this if we all wanted to do so. They would be shooting for February or March to do the project if we choose to move forward.

Commissioner Sorensen to discuss with FACET engineer Robert Benion.

Commissioner Poss to reiterate the bid needs to reflect the previous purchase of one valve set. Matter tabled.

- **King/NWNWS asked for clarification on** inspection and topping off the ATEC media tanks: Per Joanne Skaar: "Vessel #3 was 10 inches low on the pyrolusite media; the operator used the media on hand to refill the vessel". Commissioner Sorensen to request more info. Matter tabled
- **King/NWNWS comment on** power wash lower reservoirs and re-stencil project timeline? Per Joanne Skaar: "March 5, 2026 the lower portion of the reservoirs will power washed and approximately a week later the stencil project will take place". Commissioner Prior inquired about the black streaks on the reservoirs. Commissioner Poss will ask for info. Matter tabled

Old Business Commissioner update:

- Commissioner discussion of a possible Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. Discussed email from Robert Benion of FACET. Decision made to put on project hold until next year. Matter tabled.
- Commissioner discussion of electrical work by Beck Co. in the chlorine (shed fan

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and switch and lighting). The matter of moisture discussed and avoidance of freezing pipes. Commissioner Sorensen motioned to purchase a small dehumidifier be approved. Commissioner Prior seconded the motion and indicated he will investigate options. (***Motion carried, unanimously approved and passed***). Matter tabled.

- Commissioner Sorensen noted he completed the floor drain and completed the plumbing connections in chemical shed and installed new LED bulbs for lighting in all buildings.
- Continued discussion of well pump inspection and maintenance-Commissioner Sorensen noted reply from Robert Benson of Facet that it is very expensive to pull the pump and inspect and instead can monitor pump performance for indications of issues. Matter tabled.
 - Tabled discussion of tagging fire hydrants. Commissioner Prior reported 6 more tagged. Matter tabled.
 - Continued discussion of Fair-Trade bid on the tree work to remove leaning alder over well house/electrical transformer box. Commissioner Prior reported the Fair Trade bid at \$2475 is too high. Commissioner Sorensen will seek additional bids. Matter tabled.
 - Continued discussion of South Whidbey Fire Department report on recent exercising hydrants. Commissioner Prior found a company (Combs Testing Service) that specializes in hydrant testing, inspection and maintenance work and will provide a proposal soon for consideration. Commissioner Poss reported NWNWS indicated they can do the inspection and testing and maintenance and will seek a proposal from them as well. Matter tabled.
- Commissioner Poss reported from the Whidbey Island Water Systems Association is considering commenting on the new requirements for Franchise holders that would include methods of demonstrating leakage preventions and monitoring. Commissioner Poss will continue to review the matter and will advise the board if action needed or if comment to the County is recommended. Matter tabled.
- Commissioner Prior reported no new information from the owners of the boathouse who may want a water meter/service and believe they paid the connection fee in 1991 but never had a meter installed. Matter tabled.

New Business

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- Commissioner Prior reported customer 20172 contacted NWNWS regarding and excessively high bill. NWNWS had staff check the meter and the recent meter box installation and found no anomalies. Commissioner Prior reported he visited the property twice with the owner and found no evidence of a leak. Commissioner Sorensen motioned to have. New meter installed as the existing one is quite old and of odd manufacture. Commissioner Prior seconded the motion. (***Motion carried, unanimously approved and passed***). Matter tabled.
- Discussion of recent home construction on Morning Glory Lane and whether a hook up fee paid and meter installed. Commissioner Poss said he will investigate and reach out to the owner. Matter tabled.
- Commissioner Prior reported the propane tanks are at 80%.

Correspondence

none

Audience Participation: None

Commissioner Sorensen motioned that the meeting be adjourned at 8:50. Commissioner Poss seconded the motion. (***Motion carried, unanimously approved and passed***)

Commissioner Sorensen, President _____

Commissioner Poss - Secretary _____

Commissioner Prior – Treasurer _____