

Whidbey Island Water Systems Association

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2022 – 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Call to Order: Board and Guest introductions by John Lovie, Roll call of 2022 members. Welcome 2022 new members. Welcome to the first in person meeting for 2 years! Glad to be able to get back together again. John announces he is back as president. John gave an overview of the agenda. Explained the simultaneous in person and Zoom meeting. John Introduced current officers. Guests Robert Bannion, Derek Pell and Jennifer Kropak.

Quorum Call: At least one-fifth of membership present - yes

Approve Agenda: Members voted to approve the agenda - passed

Secretary's Report: Bethel Hart presented the minutes for the March 2022 General Membership meeting. Moved and seconded to approve the minutes, members voted to approve the meeting minutes –passed.

Treasurer's Report: Bethel Hart presented the treasurer's report. Current Balance is : \$26,226.23 as of 5.31.22, dues income to date: \$6,287.00, Expenses ytd: \$1,937.73. Members voted to approve treasurers report – passed.

Bethel explained the status of the Apprenticeship/Scholarship program. Introduced Sebastian Simmons, currently employed with King Water as our 2022 Apprentice Scholarship. WIWSA will pay his tuition to ERWOW, King water will cover his travel expenses. We will continue to consider additional applicants for scholarship opportunities.

Introduction of Water Systems, representatives and number of connections.

Theme of this meeting: Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and related funding opportunities Q&A Derek Pell, Alexis Medina, Jennifer Kropack. DOH Office of Drinking Water

Jennifer Kropak: State Revolving Fund , 20-year term, must have a plan of file to be approved with fall deadline.

USDA rural development plan 40-year term for larger loans/longer payment.

Estimating replacement costs can be difficult. Most lenders require a water system to show that they know how much their O&M is, what replacements costs are and have the financial capacity to make the payments on the loan. There is free software and training for asset management to determine life and replacement costs of water system infrastructure. The point is value planning, what is the best project for the price at the time.

Taking on debt is reasonable, to share the debt over time for the whole community so that the people here today don't have to pay all the costs for future users. Other 2 financing places are banks and Cascadia Water has started a new problem where they will bank your new assets.

Derek Pell: The state is expecting 2X – 4X the money for the SRF fund from the government. Funding is also expected for Consolidation Grants to assist with water system consolidation. The information for what funding and how to apply is available on the State DOH website. There are several options to look

at for consolidation, merge, become a water district, non-profit or sell to investor owned. If you-self finance you do not have to go through the government hoops you with government loans.

Grants are possible but tied directly to income, a community would have to prove their financial need and income level. Income applies to the income of the households in the community, 50% of the community would need to share their financial information.

John Lovie: In the last 3-4 years WIWSA has covered the topics of sources of funding, Small Water System Management plan, and asset management, at member meetings. Water systems are advised to complete their small water system management plans, this will help in determining if your rates are sufficient and what reserves are needed.

In addition, risk assessment planning is advised; which has become more important in recent years. Look at what happens if you have a flood, landslide, an earthquake; what are you going to do if you have one of these disasters and your water system is heavily damaged? No funding is available quickly enough to manage these occurrences. There is a risk assessment worksheet available to help determine your communities' risks. These are as likely as anything to cause damage to your water system.

Water Use Efficiency: Robert Bennion, Davido Consulting Group: Water Use Efficiency use reporting is coming up due July 1st of every year. Robert introduced some of the new reporting requirements that include water level measurement, discussed the benefits of the new reporting and well information and locating some of this information and goal setting.

The new water level measurements, monthly demand, implementation of water shortage response plan, is not technically required of Island County water systems at this time, it is required for the Columbia Basin. The new reporting requirements would help develop awareness of aquifer reduction. Knowing how your well is functioning is very valuable information. There are sonic sounders, and sounding tubes/tapes can be used to measure water level. Be sure to take proper precaution and disinfection to protect your well from contaminants. A well driller or operator should be able to measure your well. Well transducers may be installed when you service your well. A well log will provide most information needed, an additional information source is the well site viewer located on the Island County website created by Doug Kelly. The link will be added to WIWSA website with brief instructions.

Robert explained how water systems can develop water use efficiency goals, what to include and to work towards meeting them and water use reduction if possible.

Meeting adjourned: 7:00pm

Draft minutes submitted by Bethel Hart.