

# **Whidbey Island Water Systems Association**

## **General Membership Meeting Minutes**

**December 6, 2017**

### **I. Call to Order**

Jim Patton called to order the regular meeting of the Whidbey Island Water System Association General Membership Meeting at 6:00 pm on December 6, 2017 at the Race Road Fire Station.

### **II. Quorum Call**

Confirmation of a quorum was made.

### **III. Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made to approve the agenda, a second received from the crowd. Motion approved unanimously.

### **IV. Approval of Minutes from last meeting**

Jim Patton presented minutes as prepared by Randi Perry. A motion was made from the floor to approve September 20, 2017 General Membership Meeting Minutes, second from the floor, motion passed unanimously.

### **V. Treasurer's Report**

John Lovie presented budget and year-end report. Bank balance \$677 over last year. 2017 had symposium expenses, insurance decreased & increase in members. 2018 Budget includes increase training expense and no symposium. Patton included a footnote to continuing working toward creating a pre-apprenticeship program this will utilize money that's been saved. Membership will be consulted prior to making expenditures. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report, second from the floor, motion passed unanimously.

### **VI. Pass the word**

Jim Patton polled membership. "How many folks heard about meeting through email?" The majority responded yes by show of hands. The newsletter mailing may be eliminated, consensus was favorable. 2018 Membership Meetings will be held at Race Road Fire Station 5-7pm March 21, June 20, September 19, and December 19. Special introduction of New NW Regional Engineer, Denis Mehinagic, he worked 2 years in Skagit region, and is eager to assist!

### **VII. Introductions & Meeting theme**

Jim Patton introduced the Theme- Responsibilities and legal obligations of water purveyors. He requested all present to introduce themselves. Patton introduced program presenters; DOH, Assistant NW Regional Manager-Derek Pell, NW Regional Planner- Jennifer Kropack, DOE Hydrogeologist-John Rose, and Island County Health Department-Vin Sherman

### **VIII. Meeting Program "Responsibilities and Legal Obligations for Water Purveyors"**

**Derek Pell-** Derek opened with powerful questions for folks to consider throughout the presentation. Are your bylaws doing what they should? Who are your customers? How many shares are being used, and how many remain (water rights)? Can they be changed? What happens if I don't do anything?

**John Rose-** Discussion on water law. Showed web application which is a DOE map that helps direct group A's to the info about their system. It is called "water resource explorer". Water rights are designed to allocate an amount of water to be used in a specific area (point of use). Important to know about water rights: first in time first in line- if a shortage situation occurs the user obtaining water right first would be able to continue using water while others may have to conserve or stop using. Use it or lose it-right can be relinquished if water isn't utilized. Individual wells with in a service area with an established permit are allowed and are given exempt status, these wells are not exceed predetermined volume.

**Vin Sherman-** After 1999 Group B systems are required to hire a water service manager, a few approved prior to that date were ordered to hire manager due to improper management. It is required that a legal water use agreement recorded on the title. Design's must be approved and have engineer's stamped plans in order to proceed. A group B can form with in a Group A's service area only with the approval from the Board of Island County Commissioners.

**Jennifer Kropack-** Handed out information for new board members. She conveyed the importance of understanding your water systems story. Each group A has or should have the following: a water right, engineering documents for design, source identification, and storage info, and service area established, by-laws created and level of service determined.

**Nathan Howard-**Island County Planner- Growth Management laws determine what can be done with in your service areas (in systems created post 1990) County Group A maps are updated and Group B's are in process.

**Derek Pell** wrapped up by stating DOH is available to help assemble water system stories (management plan).

**Floor was open to discussion/questions.**

### **IX. Adjournment** Jim Patton adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm

Minutes submitted by: Randi Perry

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