



Meeting Minutes November 12, 2015

Meeting Called to Order:

Meeting called to order at 10:05 AM by Jason Nutsford (Kitsap PUD).

Minutes:

Thomas Hunter (City of Port Orchard) motioned to approve October's Minutes. Minutes approved for October.

Treasurer's Report:

The bank account has a balance of \$2,989.68. Currently, there are no outstanding checks or debits.

Task Force Reports:

Thomas gave an update on the GIS taskforce and will have more information available at December's meeting. He feels that they're making good progress and will be moving towards an independent server for 2016.

New Business:

- Bill Broughton (Kitsap PUD's attorney) and Bob Hunter (Kitsap PUD) presented on recent legal issues in regards to water rights. Highlights included:
 - Case of Sara Foster v. Department of Ecology; The City of Yelm; and WPCHB
 - Trial in which the Department of Ecology issued a water right permit to the city of Yelm. DOE accused of overriding consideration of the public interest by authorizing a new water right, which conflicted with minimum instream flows and stream closures.
 - Case of Scott Cornelius v. Washington DOE, WSU, and WA Pollution Control Hearing Board
 - Mr. Cornelius argued that WSU's municipal water rights impaired his junior water rights in a challenged aquifer.
 - The Supreme Court decided that "withdrawal" is different than "appropriation" when it comes to water. *Withdrawal* applies to a temporary situation that must cease when the hardship(s) diminish, i.e. drought.
 - Discussion about the Supreme Court moving the subject of water rights out of the general Judicial System; Colorado has a Judicial Branch that is strictly a Water Court.

General Discussion:

- Discussion about local water rights
 - Bill and Bob met with the Suquamish Tribe to talk about issues with water rights.
 - Kitsap County is very unique to the rest of the state since it relies primarily on groundwater instead of snow pack for its potable water.
 - Peter Bannister (Aspect Consulting) talked about how mitigation amounts are determined conservatively; mitigation quantities are established by viewing the production quantity of the whole system instead of on a site-by-site basis. He also stated that stream flows on Bainbridge are better now than they have ever been due to deforestation and mitigation.
 - Reclaimed water is actually viewed as a negative in Eastern Washington. Currently, streams benefit from treated waste water, which augment their low summertime flows.
 - Thomas asked how water rights correlate with reclaimed water. Many people who use reclaimed water feel that it should not count towards their water right.

- Discussion about membership/junior membership
 - Bob does not think that there has been a need to have a junior membership lately.
 - Mike Krautkramer (Robinson Noble) asked about affordable options to help the rate payers. Collectively bargaining for services to cut costs was brought up.
 - Kathleen Cahall (City of Bremerton) and Shawn O'Dell (Washington Water) talked about coming together as a group to have services performed i.e. Tank cleaning.
 - Mark Dorsey (City of Port Orchard) mentioned Port Orchard's ADA Transition Plan where they are currently looking to update their storm drainage using GIS.
 - Shawn says that the *Pierce County Co-Op* has changed their name to the *Regional Water Cooperative of Pierce County*. Bob said that they have asked Kitsap PUD to join their cooperative, but he does not think anyone would be able to attend the meetings due to busy schedules. Shawn thinks that larger purveyors should be involved.

- Discussion about earthquake preparedness
 - Kathleen mentioned that a Kitsap Sun reporter contacted her asking about earthquake preparedness with water systems. She talked about seismic vaults and reservoir updates.
 - The effects of the 2001 Nisqually Quake were discussed.
 - Joel Purdy (GeoEngineers) talked about aquifer changes after an earthquake.
 - Mark brought up the June 2016 Emergency Management event where there will be a mock Cascadia earthquake. The purpose of this event is to test system preparedness.
 - How do you know it's Cascadia? If it's over 3 minutes. Cascadia is supposed to be a 9.1 Magnitude.
 - Joel asked if any purveyors have completed a vulnerability assessment. Kathleen stated that the City of Bremerton has completed theirs (after 20 years). She says that the shallow quakes, like the ones that occur on the Seattle/Bremerton fault, are much more damaging than the deeper ones that happen in the subduction zone.
 - Kathleen talked about the USGS Hazard Program Earthquake Notification Service that sends you emails whenever there's an earthquake of a certain magnitude or greater. Anyone can sign up at: <https://sslearnquake.usgs.gov/ens/register>
 - Mark talked about Emergency Management's weather notifications. A list of sites and applications for weather notifications can be found at: <http://www.weather.gov/subscribe>

- Chair/Co-Chair/Secretary elections were discussed
 - Morgan Johnson (Silverdale Water District) suggested that we abandon the annual election cycle.
 - Bob said that the intent of the cycle was to get people to pay attention—this seemed to slightly backfire by causing fewer people to participate in WaterPAK.
 - Further discussion will take place at December's meeting.

- Flyover imagery was discussed
 - Flyovers are conducted every 2 to 3 years. Bob thinks it is unreasonable that KPUD pays the same amount as Kitsap County.
 - KPUD won't be participating again unless the rates are changed. If more utilities join in, it'll be less expensive.
 - Mark stated that the data is useless for Port Orchard because it is only horizontal imagery, and does not include vertical. He feels that when the County comes out with a comprehensive vertical flyover, Port Orchard will likely participate.
 - Mike added that vertical capabilities would be a good tool for earthquake preparedness, too.
 - Peter inquired about the last LiDAR flyover in 2013 (They do it about every 3 years).
 - Bob does not feel like you get what you pay for with LiDAR, either.



- Discussion about DWSRF Programs
 - Susan Clark (WA DOH) gave an overview of DOH's past and future funding opportunities.
 - 2015 Construction Loan (ended 9/30/15)—there is extra money: Maybe using it to fund projects that came in over-budget. The DOH is looking at past applications to see if there are still projects out there that need funding.
 - Pre-Construction *Grant* Cycle—January 1-31, 2016
 - Provides funding for systems (pop. of <10,000) to pay for such things as environmental reviews and engineering, which get them closer to applying for a DWSRF Construction Loan.
 - Consolidation *Grant* Cycle—February 1-29, 2016
 - Provides up to \$30,000 to assist small struggling systems (<500 connections) consolidate with larger systems. Grant will fund both feasibility studies and connection fees. Must have a Section 106: Environmental Review (this is managed through the DOH).
 - Pre-Construction *Loan* Cycle—March 1-31, 2016
 - Provides up to \$300,000 to pay for preconstruction activities.

- Recent election results were discussed
 - Bob announced that the Kitsap PUD won their Sewer Authority Petition.
 - Mark said that the City of Port Orchard lost their petition for a rate increase.

- Rates were discussed
 - Mark, Bob, and Morgan discussed how often they implement rate increases and the processes involved.
 - Mark talked about how crucial the gap analysis is in determining rates.
 - Bob brought up how KPUD uses a 4-tier rate system. Most of their capital comes from tier 3 & 4 customers.

- Cross-connections were discussed
 - Thomas mentioned the recent cross-connection meeting he attended. The state has a 97-page template that gives a system a real thorough overview of their cross-connection program. He advised that purveyors get their systems up-to-date because the state is going to have heavier enforcement in the near future.
 - Thomas will be meeting with the Operations Manager of Mercer Island to discuss the recent *E. coli* outbreak and what they had to do to remedy the problem. They are pretty sure it goes back to their cross-connection program, specifically related to an air vac.
 - Shawn talked about the surveys that WA Water sent out to their customer's, which inquired about their household's cross-connection preventions. They only receive about 50 percent of them back.

- Future meeting topics
 - GIS taskforce update
 - Elections for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary for 2016

Adjournment:

Shawn O'Dell motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 12:13 PM.