

**Water District 19**  
**Board of Commissioners Meeting**  
**October 15, 2024**

**Regular Meeting 6:00 PM**

**Commissioner Seth Zuckerman** called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:03 PM. Those also in attendance were **Commissioners Mike Weller**, by phone: **Commissioner Pfohman**, **General Manager John Martinak**, **Operator in Responsible Charge Armin Wahanik** and Office **Administrator Melody Snyder**. Visitors present, Matt Harvey and Alex Bruell, Editor Vashon Beachcomber

6:03 Call to Order – Commissioner Zuckerman

**Proposed Changes to Water Unit Allocation Policy** – Matt Harvey, district customer, expressed his concerns to the Board about the “buyback list” generated at the last allocation event. He’s been on that list for one and a half years and is concerned that if the Board decides to change the allocation process, the Board will be throwing away that list. He’s advocating for the Board to satisfy every person on the list before inviting new applications. The Board responded by letting him know that there has been nothing set yet for the next allocation process and that they are planning a special meeting in November which will hopefully get more of the district’s customers involved to offer suggestions for the next allocation event. The Board set the evening of Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> for that meeting and instructed staff to secure an appropriate venue .

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes** – Tuesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Special Meeting and Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Regular Meeting. The Board reviewed the minutes and held off approving until the next meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Review of Vouchers/Warrants/Electronic Payments – Maintenance Fund Vouchers #27929 through #27959** totaling \$38,133.67. **Capital Improvement Fund Voucher #12324 through #12332** totaling \$27,485.37. **Payroll Warrants #4353 through #4366** totaling \$33,419.79 and **Payroll EFT Direct Deposits** totaling \$11,538.98 dated 09/16/24 and 10/01/24. **Electronic payments** dated 09/17/24, 10/02/24 and 10/11/24 totaling \$8,185.02 and Department of Revenue payment for \$11,678.54. **Commissioner Weller** made a motion to approve the vouchers as submitted. **Commissioner Zuckerman** seconded. Motion carried.

**System Operations Report – OIRC Wahanik** – Operators remain focused on addressing algal concerns raised by DOH and getting approval to resume operating the treatment plant. Emergency water use restrictions remain in effect due to the limited capacity of the District’s groundwater sources. A few consumer complaints have been received relating to taste and odor,

mostly in the Chautauqua Beach area. It may be related to low chlorine residuals in the area. The Lead and Copper results from samples taken in August are back. The results are well below Action Levels identified by DOH. The lead service line inventory has been submitted to the DOH ahead of the 10/16/2024 deadline. To date, no lead service lines have been identified. OIRC Wahanik is having trouble with the chlorine residual at the Morgan Hill well site. Vashon Meadows can no longer be used this year, having reached the limits of its annual maximum withdrawal under its water right. The Island Center Homes project at 188<sup>th</sup> is nearly complete, and meters have been installed. Ellis Pump #2 is back in service.

**Financial Report – General Manager Martinak** – Water sales (June – September) were down 14% from 2023. Reserves are currently near \$2.2 million, with a current operating ratio of 1.27. The financial impact of algae abatement/plant optimization are not yet represented in the financials. The cost of pond cleaning and temporary responses is expected to range from \$100 - \$150k. Scope and cost of a permanent solution have not been defined.

**New Business:**

- Awarding of Contract for 216<sup>th</sup> Main Replacement Project – General Manager Martinak reported that 10 bids were opened on Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 2 PM. G & O to review bids before the District awards the contract.

**Old Business:**

- Treatment Plant Wastewater/Recycle Pond Issues– General Manager Martinak – Information Item
  - DOE Compliance Status – No wastewater discharge violations have occurred/been reported since 09/06/2024. Permit for wastewater discharge into sanitary sewer expired on 10/11/2024. No further wastewater discharge is expected in the foreseeable future. EPA Notice of Intent/General Purpose wastewater Discharge Permit yet to be completed. The GM is exploring options for installing a permanent wastewater line to Vashon Sewer District.
  - DOH Compliance Status – Both ponds have been drained and sludge removed. Interior surfaces to be disinfected as soon as possible. Bids are being reviewed for pond covers (~\$20k, w/o installation). DOH has agreed to short-term use of recycled pond water with the following conditions:
    - Provide description/SOP of pond cleaning process.
    - Develop protocol for evaluating the quality of pond water and define what conditions trigger taking the ponds/recycle water offline.
  - G&O Plant Optimization/Algae Prevention Report – Design is underway for a temporary potassium permanganate system to treat pond water until a permanent solution can be approved and installed. Plant optimization to follow.
  - Emergency Water Use Restrictions – Restrictions are expected to be lifted next week, after meeting short-term use conditions identified by DOH.
- Encroachment – Update/Information Item – The Yeoells’ attorney presented their offer to purchase District property that is occupied by their structure. Our attorneys are preparing a reply to the proposal. Ms. Lightmark’s attorney has provided an informal offer to purchase the land she is currently occupying. The Board suggested it would be helpful to

have some time with our attorney (in Executive Session) before deciding on any offer and asked GM Martinak to arrange the meeting.

- Staffing – Update/Information Item – GM Martinak is having a 2<sup>nd</sup> interview with a level 2 operator next week. System Operator Keven Jones notified GM Martinak that he's taken a job offer off Island. He will provide his resignation letter next week.

**Schedule for the Next Meeting:** Changed from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday due to commissioners' schedule conflicts to Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of November.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners, **Commissioner Pfohman** made a motion to conclude the meeting at 8:22 PM. **Commissioner Weller** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.