

Water District 19
Board of Commissioners Meeting
March 10, 2026

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM

Commissioner Zuckerman called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Those also in attendance were **Commissioners Angela Marshall, Commissioner Robin Pfohman, General Manager John Martinak, Operations Lead Armin Wahanik** and **Office Administrator Heidi McWatters**. Guests were: Steve Richmond and Rob Harmon

6:00 PM Call to order – **Commissioner Zuckerman**

Guest: Steve Richmond – Invasive Plant Control

Steve Richmond from Seed Rain attended the board meeting to discuss the growing issue of invasive plants on Vashon Island and the threat they pose to native habitat. Steve suggested that Water District 19 develop a restoration plan for its watershed properties: focused on removing invasive plants and replacing them with native plants.

Guest: Rob Harmon – Utility Policy Consultant

Mr. Harmon raised concerns over the District’s billing structure. Mr. Harmon noted that the district currently derives 83% of its revenue from fixed rates, as opposed to adopting a usage-based strategy. Mr. Harmon noted other utilities typically collect 5-10% of their revenue from fixed base fees. The Board shared the rationale behind the current rate structure and invited Mr. Harmon to participate in future discussions on the topic.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, February 10th, 2026, Regular Meeting. **Commissioner Pfohman** made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, **Commissioner Marshall** seconded. The motion carried.

Review of Vouchers/Warrants/Electronic Payments – Maintenance Fund Vouchers numbered from 24422 to 28453 totaling \$51,588.51. **Capital Improvement Vouchers** numbered 12369 to 12373 totaling \$188,985.03. **Dept. of Revenue** payment totaling \$6,615.32. **Dept. of Retirement** payment totaling \$6,128.27 paid on March 5th, 2026. **Payroll Direct** deposits in the amounts of \$20,319.28 and \$19,945.67. **Payroll EFT** payments in the amounts of \$7,220.16 and \$6,912.58. **Commissioner Zuckerman** made a motion to approve the vouchers as submitted. **Commissioner Pfohman** seconded. Motion carried.

System Operations Report – Operations Lead Armin Wahanik – Information Item –

- Source production: treatment plant operated 18 days in February, wells 1, 4 and Morgan Hill produced water 26 days. Well 2, VM and Beall wells remained offline.
- A high filter rate alarm was added to SCADA to prevent future filter rate exceedances.
- Algae monitoring: weekly testing continues to indicate an absence of cyanobacteria in treated water and algae counts remain low since installation of pond covers.
- Typical arsenic level of blended source water in the distribution system is calculated to be at 3 parts per billion (MCL = 10 ppb).
- The pond cover on the west pond was removed to allow for sludge removal. The east pond is now covered and serving as the active recycle pond.
- Repair and/or replacement of a hydrant assembly on V-Hwy was abandoned after no leak was found.
- Morale among Field Staff remains “high”.

Financial Report – General Manager Martinak – Information Item –

Financial data for February was not yet available. As of the end of January, reserves were \$115k below in 2025. The operating ratio for January was 1.06, and 1.21 over the previous 12 months. Best estimates for February have the District breaking even.

New Business:

- **Encroachment Agreement – Action Item**
Following review of the boundary line settlement, **Commissioner Pfohman** made a motion to accept the settlement, **Commissioner Marshall** seconded, and all voted in favor. **Commissioner Zuckerman** will sign the agreement on behalf of the District.
- **Voice of Vashon New Antenna – Action item** – VOV requested permission to install and operate a small, solar-powered antenna atop the million-gallon tank. The Commissioners had no objections. **General Manager Martinak** is to review the details on the project for consistency with the existing agreement for the placement and maintenance of equipment atop the water tank.
- **KC Franchise Agreement Renewal – Action item** – The final draft was distributed for review by the Commissioners. **General Manager Martinak** was asked to verify the District’s current insurance coverage meets the thresholds identified. Once verification has been completed, the Franchise Agreement renewal will be submitted to King County for finalization.
- **UW Heavy Metal & Microplastics Study – Information Item** – The University of Washington, in partnership with the Nature Center and the V-MI Groundwater Protection Committee, is finalizing the scope of a study to quantify heavy metals and microplastics in soil, private wells, on beaches, and within public water systems. The District has agreed to share existing water quality data and allow for additional testing within the Beall and Ellis watersheds.

Old Business:

- **216th Main Replacement Project– Information Item** – The second phase of project has passed pressure and water quality testing, and major work is nearly complete. Work on the third (final) phase has begun. Problems encountered include:
 - Failure to meet required soil compaction in 9 of 11 sites along 216th.

- Enforcement of other project specifications.
- Customer complaints over lack of restoration/property damage, traffic management, lack of adequate notice prior to water service interruption, etc.

Efforts continue to ensure that work is completed in accordance with contract specifications, including complete restoration of the work site upon completion.

- **Soper Road Update – Information Item** – No substantial progress to report. It has been reported that one of the residents affected by the slide has taken up residence at a second home. **General Manager Martinak** will be following up with Water & Sewer Risk Management Pool on facilitating the settling of claims and resolution of this issue.
- **Admin Staffing – Information Item** – Caitlin O'Brien has accepted the part-time administrative position. She has a strong background in research, data management and accounting practice. She is scheduled to begin work on March 18th. The District looks forward to her having her onboard.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for Tuesday April 14th, 2026.

Commissioner Zuckerman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45. **Commissioner Pfohman** seconded the motion. The motion carried.