



**LAKESWOOD WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Minutes of Regular Meeting
May 18, 2023
Boardroom & Via Microsoft Teams**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

President Korsmo called the Regular Meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

2. ATTENDANCE

Present at the meeting: Commissioners J. Korsmo, G. Rediske, and G. Barton; General Manager R. Black, Operations Manager I. Black, Engineering Manager M. Meyer, Finance Manager P. Mendoza, IT Manager C. Fast, Administrative Assistant J. Clark.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. PRESENTATION OF THE FEMA VIDEO

Presentation of a video from FEMA Hazard Mitigation and they selected our Steilacoom Blvd. tank as the project for the video. The video can be viewed on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/vjggwTpgDLE>

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM 04/20/23 REGULAR MEETING.

COMMISSIONER REDISKE MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 20, 2023, REGULAR MEETING, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER BARTON. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Philip Mendoza, Finance Manager, presented the April 2023 financials to the Board. He shared that *retail sales* in April 2023 were 4.29% lower than budgeted and 2.84% higher YTD. *Wholesale water sales* are 3.68% lower than projected and 2.56% lower YTD, *Operating revenue* is 2.88% lower than budgeted and within 1% of the budget. *Pumping operations* is 20.8% lower than budget and 12.6% under budget YTD; *Water Treatment operations* are 56.15% under budget and 12.6% under budget YTD. *Transmission and Distribution operations* is 6.74% under budget and 12.3% under budget YTD. *Total operating expense* is 24.2% under budget and 15.9% under budget YTD. Maintenance Expense 3.83% under budget and 5.2% higher budget YTD (Water main break).

a. Approval of Payables

Disbursements made from the General Ledger Fund for checks number 45888 through 45988 totaling \$1,525,999.01, salary direct deposits totaling \$207,223.88, payroll taxes totaling \$79,434.55, and other electronic payments totaling \$325,264.12 for a total of \$2,137,921.56 were presented to the Board for approval.

COMMISSIONER KORSMO MOVED TO APPROVE THE PAYABLES AS LISTED. COMMISSIONER BARTON SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT

Randall Black, General Manager, provided the following updates:

Water Week was a success! We had 31 donations and raised \$1,746.00 for Lasa to distribute to customers through our CAP (Customer Assistance Program). Thank you to Teri McDougall & Jeri-Lynn Clark for their hard work on this event, and a big thank you to Sandy Rae for getting great donations!

Western State Hospital

General Manager Black shared an update on Western State Hospital. The District sent DSHS the DEA. He received a call from Larry Covey and Jeanne Rodriguez (DSHS) to better understand the District's requirements. There was a lengthy conversation about the GFC charges, the value of water rights, and what giving us water rights means. Water rights are not calculated in our GFC charges because we don't pay for them. Water rights are given through the State of Washington. Some expenses are associated with it, such as hydrogeologist and consultant time.

GFC charge takes storage, distribution, and fire flow are used to calculate the GFC charge. DSHS would give the District water rights to meet their current needs because they would no longer be pumping, distributing, or treating that water; the District would be taking care of it. After talking with them, they now have a better understanding of water rights. The most urgent is getting the DEA signed so that we can continue to work on this project; without it, we can't move forward. Next would be the agreement for the project and the conditional assessment. They do not have any issues with the DEA. Once we have the DEA signed, we will start submitting for reimbursement of staff time for any work done on the analysis and Conditional Acceptance.

The District is concerned about the proposed geothermal wells. They are planning 50-100, three-hundred-foot-deep geothermal wells; this is a concern for the District if they have a leak or other contamination and cause possible cross-contamination. We want to know their safety plan for these wells.

General Manager Black will keep the Commissioners updated as it progresses.

PFAS Partnership Meeting with potential allies is June 6, 2023, at 10 AM in the boardroom and will be available in person and on Teams. District attorney Jeff Kray and his staff will be here to discuss the impacts other districts are dealing with and what help they have received through the state agents (DOH, DOE, and the Attorney General's office), and what the agencies can do to help the military bases to start moving forward on treatments. Commissioner Barton will attend on behalf of the Commission.

Legislative Bills There are a few new legislative bills that affect water districts.

SHB 1329: Utility Shutoffs – Extreme Heat. Effective July 2023

Water (and power) service to residential customers may not be disconnected for lack of payment on any day when the national weather service has issued or has announced that it intends to issue a heat-related alert. District legal counsel is working on a resolution to address Utility Shutoffs new regulation.

HB 1491: Prohibiting Unjustified Employer Searched of Employee Person Vehicles. HB 1491 Recently passed, and we will update the resolution and staff handbook to reflect the changes.

SHB 1181: Improving the State’s Response to Climate Change.

We will need to update the comp plan to reflect on how we will look at low-carbon construction; low-carbon heating and air conditioning that are now required if you add on or extend your building. The District will need to look at all the different alternatives when making construction decisions.

General Manager shared concerns regarding Clover Creek Watershed Council (CCWC). Their requests have taken a lot of staff time, and it is frustrating when staff take time to research information, and then it appears that CCWC members are sharing different and/or inaccurate information.

Commissioner Rediske asked who is on the committee and how a person gets on the committee. General Manager Black shared that CCWC is a volunteer position for Pierce County and is overseen by a Pierce County staff member who staffs the committee. Each member has a term of four years and is appointed by Pierce County Councilmembers.

Commissioner Barton recommends giving a presentation to the County Commissioners, so they are aware of the facts. General Manager Black shared that would work, and he was also thinking of writing an article in The Suburban Times. The only fix is doing a basin study. The last one was in 2003; it wasn't completed due to the tribes pulling out of the study due to the lack of data and facts concerning other aspects of usage within the basin.

Commissioner Korsmo shared his concerns about the elimination of the single-family home zoning. This is a concern of how many water connections could occur from this new rule. General Manager Black shared that per legal counsel, nothing in the bill states you have to grant a discount or lower your costs. The GFC charge and resolution we did last year to address ADUs covers the District. General Manager Black shared that this will be a more significant issue for the City of Lakewood.

Operations Manager Black shared that this greatly impacts our water growth plan. We could have water demands in areas where we would never have that demand. The number of residential homes in Lakewood may double, triple, or quadruple now. There's an unlimited number of homes per lot. This will have an impact on the number of services that are put in the road. Putting four units on one property will be four water, sewer, and telephone connections.

8. OPERATIONS REPORT

Ian Black, Operations Manager, shared some recaps from his report provided in the packet. The flushing program is taking a little longer than planned due to not flushing last year, should be done by mid-June. The fire hydrant program is about 75-80% done. Two projects are starting on Elwood and Dresden (in partnership with the City of Lakewood) and the 96th and Front St. project (the last of the projects in aid of the wholesale transmission). The Spanaway Wholesale connection project is scheduled to have the final paving on May 24, 2023.

Western State Hospital – Operations Manager Black shared he has been working with Scott Muran from KPFF, the civil engineering firm working on this project. He shared it has been a bit of a challenge; they sent us plans that were 50% complete and didn't have a lot of the needed details. Usually, at this point, you're zeroed in on many things. Operations Manager Black commented, "You haven't put any water going to the generator buildings or your power plant. You might want to consider that." He shared it has been broad-based at this stage. We're hoping to get more into the details very soon.

Commissioner Barton inquired about the Western State Hospital line "would never have had non-chlorinated water." Operations Manager Black shared that we would not want a system that did not have chlorinated water. Their phasing plan for the existing hospital has them building the loop in phases and using Western State Hospital water until the project is complete. The District will not have a non-chlorinated system. If you are building it, build the loop in its entirety and have chlorinated water. Every time they build another section, they have to break that line down and add another connection that needs to come out of service. We suggested taking six weeks and adding the 5,000 feet of pipe to build the loop. Then fill it full of water, then we can start the service line connections. The hospital is not looking at anything except for the building and not what it will take to build the proper water main and water connections.

General Manager Black also shared that we have not received any water quality samples, so we do not want to risk it going into the new system. We don't know if they have been tested for PFAS. There is a lot to still figure out.

Commissioner Korsmo shared that he appreciated the map of what are AC Mains and what are Ductile mains.

9. ENGINEERING MANAGER'S REPORT

Marshall Meyer, Engineering Manager, shared most of the information is in his report. He did share that water production is up from 11gmd-12gmd to 16gmd-17gmd. He shared that the staff have been great in preparing for the upcoming warmer weather and made some adjustments to the valves, so when the weekend hit was smooth sailing the entire time.

Wholesale Pump Station 1 - Pump inlet screens have now been installed on all four pumps at Wholesale Booster Pump Station 1 to protect them from additional rocks that may be in the pipeline and could cause damage. The staff did a great job working

quickly to prepare the pumps for service by PumpTech. The entire process took two working days, and there was no water service interruption.

N-3 Well View Rd. – Is now installed and hooked up; we will be flushing and doing bacteriological testing.

Engineering Manager Meyer shared that his team noticed that one of the wells hadn't been doing as well as they would like in removing that manganese over the last year or so. They have invested a lot of time and research into figuring out the challenge. They changed some of the chemical dosing and changed some locations where they physically injected some of the chemicals to give it more time to react. They never gave up trying to figure out how to make it better. They changed a couple of our operational parameters and have been able to put it back in service, running reliably and getting good results.

Engineer Manager Meyer wanted to share how pleased he is with their dedication and high standards. The key staff working on this project are Jacob Lea, Zac Smith, and Ryan Alvis.

Engineering Manager Meyer gave a presentation on Lakewood Water District Well Maintenance Program. We have 33 wells, ranging in depth from 100' to 1,100'. We pump from four aquifers A-8 wells, C-9 wells, E-14 wells, and G-2 wells. The average age of the wells is 52 years and were constructed between 1952-2022.

He shared information on the different well components (casing, seal, and wellhead). The types of pumps and motors, both submersible and turbine well pumps. He shared the District has started moving towards the Turbine Well motors for easier repairs. Next, he showed photos of the ground well screen and pack. We track well construction logs, flow rate and volume pumped, water quality information (pH, hardness, temperature, minerals, etc.), static and pumping water levels, and water level recovery. On a regular basis, we do well inspection and testing (water quality testing, video inspection, measure well pack, and pump testing). Some common well problems are (sand through the well screening, screen damage, casing damage, biofouling, well screen plugging, and well pack loss). We use Rehabilitation methods such as (brush and bail, surge, jetting, and chemical treatment). The typical life expectancy is 50 years, but it can be extended with a good maintenance and rehabilitation schedule. The typical schedule of activities: Water level tracking (continuous), motor and pump performance (monthly), video inspections (every 5 years), brush and bail (every 5 years), redevelopment (as needed), and pump replacement (every 15-20 years).

10. IT MANAGER'S REPORT

No cyber security issues this month. Dish is now at Oakbrook, making its fourth cell tower site. Clover Park School District has expressed interest in the Hemlock site for three private radio antennae. They would use the antennas for communication throughout their district headquarters and the bus yard.

11. HR REPORT

General Manager Black shared that the travel policy has been updated in the employee guideline. Commissioner Rediske inquired how many staff travel each year. General Manager Black shared on average that around twelve staff travel to the different conferences. We make sure all departments have a chance to attend a conference.

12. OTHER BUSINESS:

- a. There were no wage increases this month.
- b. General Manager Black would like to schedule a special meeting presenting PFAS funding options on June 1, 2023, at 9:00 AM. The board agreed to the special meeting date and time.
- c. Commissioner Barton provided a brief update on the WASWD Legislative Committee. At the last government relation committee, they started working on the 2024 legislative agenda. PFAS, Bio-Solids, and Utility Tax are some items they will be working on.

They did a survey to see who is paying utility tax, and 44 districts responded; the average response was 6%-12%, and one district in Vancouver has a 40% tax on their base fee.

The Public Works Trust fund was funded at \$400 million, which is close to the revenues they take in. The loans are low-interest 1% loans, and he would encourage the District to apply early before the funds run out.

Next is expanding the in-house public works project to match cities. Districts can now select a different contractor who is not the lowest bidder if there are existing challenges with that contractor.

Commissioner Barton recapped the Capital budget and some of the highlights that could benefit the District: \$400M Public Works Fund; \$1.38M State Revolving Fund.

Thank you to Rep. Mari Leavitt for working to get the District \$1.86M.

- d. Our next Special Commissioner's meeting will be on June 1, 2023, at 9:00 AM.
Our next Regular Commissioner's meeting will be on June 22, 2023, at 3:30 PM.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

13. ADJOURN

President Korsmo adjourned the meeting at 5:03 PM.

LAKWOOD WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY:




ITS PRESIDENT

BY:



ITS VICE PRESIDENT

BY:



ITS SECRETARY

BY:

 6/22/2023

DISTRICT SECRETARY (DATE)