



Meeting Minutes
Silverdale Water District – Large Conference Room
October 10, 2019

Meeting Called to Order: Jason Nutsford (Kitsap Public Utility District (KPUD)) called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM and introductions were made.

Minutes: Sid Williams (Silverdale Water District (SWD)) made a motion to approve the minutes from August. Jacki Brown (City of Port Orchard (COPO)) seconded. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: Diana Temple (SWD) reported that the statement balance as of 9/30/2019 was \$2001.44. There is one outstanding debit for the tabletop banner purchased for career fairs for \$76.18.

Task Force Reports

- Public Outreach:
 - Kitsap County Fair: The group discussed the pros and cons of WaterPAK's booth at the Fair last August. Positive feedback was heard concerning the appearance of the booth. Next year, there should be more kid-friendly giveaways. Diana explained the tediousness of setting up a monitor with an accompanying DVD player at the booth. Sid recommended that WaterPAK purchase a TV with a built-in USB port. Jacki asked what WaterPAK's basic message is at the event. Jason pointed out that the message tends to focus more on conservation. Jason gave kudos to the Public Outreach Taskforce for filling the schedule so quickly. Diana recognized Lisa Campbell (City of Bremerton (COB)) for all her work in distributing the schedule in plenty of time.
 - Career Fairs: The group discussed additional handouts that can be given at local high school career fairs. Morgan Johnson (SWD) suggested that WaterPAK visit schools outside of Central Kitsap. He would like to see WaterPAK have a presence at career fairs in North Kitsap, South Kitsap, and Bremerton and suggested that the utilities in those districts man the booths, if possible. Jacki pointed out that all of the AWWA subsections set up booths at career fairs within their areas. Mike Pleasants (COPO) mentioned that he is an available resource for display and hand-out materials from the South Sound Subsection. It was suggested that the current hand-out that details the list of available jobs within the water industry be flipped around, putting the positions requiring less experience and education at the top of the list and the jobs that require more at the bottom. Additionally, Morgan suggested that the current salary ranges for each position be added. Possibly put up a questionnaire: "Do I need a college degree?" Morgan also asked that we include information about ERWOW's new Apprenticeship Program at future career fairs. A request was made for WaterPAK to look into purchasing a smaller branded tablecloth to fit the small tables at the school events.
 - Diana brought up the taskforce's inquiry to add a tab on our website for "Employment." The job listings under this tab will primarily be for summer-help positions. Cami Apfelbeck (COB) mentioned a hiring company that vets people for entry-level jobs. Some of the candidates have minor infractions on their records that prevent them from moving forward with normal hiring processes in most companies. She will find out the name of the hiring service. Morgan pointed out that employees who work for Silverdale Water District are strictly vetted and cannot have serious crimes on their records. Morgan also pointed out that Silverdale Water District is looking into lowering its age of employment-eligibility from 18 to 16 years old. Jason would like to create a harmonized message for all WaterPAK members that encompasses all the types of jobs available within the water industry and the accompanying descriptions.



- Legislative: No report.
- Conservation: No report.
- Cross-connection: No report.
- Mapping/GIS: No report.

Old Business: None.

New Business: No report.

General Discussion:

- Diana gave an overview on WaterPAK's involvement in the WA State Science Fair back in March. Discussion ensued about the types of projects presented at the event. The group discussed continuing to give awards (both physical awards and cash prizes) on behalf of WaterPAK and possibly create a third award for the 7th & 8th grade group, which is judged separately.
- Mike gave an overview of AWWA's Young Professional (YP) program. Diana asked about the age range for the group. Mike commented that, generally, it includes professionals up to age 35 OR those who have less than 10 years in the industry. Sid gave an overview of his experience as a young professional starting out in the water field.
- Jason discussed KPUD's plans of moving water from their Seabeck Aquifer, through Silverdale, and up north to Port Gamble and beyond, including Hansville and Kingston. Additionally, the idea is to provide redundancy by connecting some of WA Water's systems to some of KPUD's smaller systems. Jacki asked how the Department of Ecology handles the issue of water-rights. Morgan pointed out that KPUD's water rights are county-wide. The group discussed one primary issue with intertying several systems, which deals with connecting a fluoridated system with one (or more) that is not.
- Sid gave an overview of the ongoing Newberry Hill well pump test. Jason suggested that Joel Purdy with KPUD give an official presentation to the group on the current trends.
- Cami talked about the recent case of Crown West Realty vs. Department of Ecology (Appeal of Ecology's denial of applications to change and transfer perfected portions of water rights. Issues on appeal include whether the subject water right qualifies as municipal and could be changed (in part) to a new purpose of use). DOE Lead Attorney Alan Richtman's summary of the case ruling is as follows (as shared by Adam Gravely, Van Ness Feldman, at recent Washington Water Utilities Council meeting):
 - The Water Conservancy Board's ruling on the Crown West Realty water right examination which stated "once a muni, always a muni" in relation to water rights was illegal.
 - An entity cannot claim a water right is municipal, just because it was once used as municipal and/or is intended to be used as a municipal water right in the future.
 - Must currently be used as a municipal water right (i.e., meet the definition of municipal water right ***at present time***).
 - Ecology policy 2030 (*2003 Municipal Water Law Interpretive and Policy Statement*) – though the court referenced and talked about how Ecology interprets and applies the municipal water law, it side-stepped and did not issue a ruling for or against.
 - In regards to definition of municipal, cannot claim residential use by non-residential, if not spending the night.
 - Dicta comments (discussion, but not ruling) around "beneficial use", but no ruling to clearly interpret or define.



This has resulted in some ambiguity regarding what this ruling means for water purveyors with municipal water rights that will apply for changes or transfers. Specifically, will the beneficial use exemption provided under the Municipal Water Law provide the same level of protection? Some in the legal community think maybe not, if a municipality is not currently (presently) using the water right. Therefore, some purveyors are hiring water rights attorneys to put their water rights through a legal “stress-test” to see how well the right may hold up if challenged (i.e., meet the definition and show sufficient “active compliance.”).

- Morgan mentioned Silverdale Water District’s capital projects plan - \$10 M. These projects include: ShakeAlert, a new one-million-gallon steel reservoir, the Harrison Hospital project, Kitsap Transit, and several feet of 16-inch water main. Jason asked when Silverdale hopes to have ShakeAlert up and running. Sid said it is very close - Silverdale Water District will give a presentation to the group once the system is live.
- Morgan announced that Mike Pleasants (currently with City of Port Orchard) will be joining the staff of Silverdale Water District on November 1, 2019 as Silverdale Water’s new District Engineer.
- Jason inquired about utility member experiences with the contracting market. John Tapia (West Sound Utility District) pointed out that bids seem to be all over the place lately. Morgan talked about a recent experience that Silverdale Water had with a project that went out for bid.
- The group discussed the benefits of putting murals and decorative wraps on water reservoirs and other utility infrastructure. It seems that the nicer they look, the less likely they are to be tagged.
- Discussion ensued about inviting members from local tribes to come and speak to the group about items to look for when laying water main and/or digging in areas of cultural significance. The group talked about inviting the local tribes as water purveyors to come to WaterPAK regularly.
- In Jocelyne Gray’s (WA DOH) absence, Jason mentioned that that construction loan cycle is open.
- Jason reminded the group about the Cross-Connection seminar on October 16th in Lynnwood.
- The group discussed inspections for water projects. Cami pointed out that COB’s engineers are entrusted to handle their inspections. Morgan said that Silverdale currently has two engineers on staff but will soon have three when Mike comes aboard. The goal is to hire two more PEs in the next 5 years. Mike talked about how to handle redundancy with inspectors.
- Cami mentioned that the new DOH manual has been released and is now available to everyone. Jacki cautioned that some of the requirements for reservoir tanks have changed. Jason asked Cami if Ned Lever (also with COB) could put together an announcement for WaterPAK that details the reservoir changes in question.
- Morgan would like to see WaterPAK set up an annual schedule that designates each month to a specific presenter i.e. DOH, DOE, USGS, local tribes, Kitsap County, AWWA, ERWOW, etc.
- Cami mentioned the American Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (AWIA) workshops. She and Jacki mentioned giving a presentation to the group. Jacki spoke to the group about EPA’s new cyber security tool. She will forward the email to Diana to distribute to the group.
- Mike gave an update on Port Orchard’s Well 13 project. John Gillespie (BHC Consultants) mentioned that the final well will have 20” casing. It was also mentioned that there will most likely be an ATEC treatment system. Jacki elaborated on Port Orchard’s stream augmentation and mitigation process. Jim Hay (Robinson Noble) pointed out that the well will go below the current Kitsap model. Jacki added that Port Orchard’s well is the only project that is currently in a model.
- Diana reported that Angela Gallardo with Kitsap County Public Works is starting a new job with the City of Tacoma and will no longer be the lead contact for the Underground Utility website.
- Sid reported on Silverdale Water’s progress with their Asset Management Program. He will give a report once the site is up and running.



Adjournment: With no further business to discuss, Sid made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jason seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:54 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana Temple
WaterPAK Secretary/Treasurer