



**Meeting Minutes
via Conference Call
March 12, 2020**

In lieu of the current Coronavirus pandemic, this meeting was held via conference call.

Meeting Called to Order: Shawn O’Dell (WA Water) called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM and introductions were made.

Minutes: Cami Apfelbeck (City of Bremerton (COB)) made a motion to approve the minutes from February. Joel Purdy (Kitsap Public Utility District (KPUD)) seconded. Minutes approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Diana Temple (Silverdale Water District) reported that the account balance as of February 29, 2020 was \$2,997.01. Twenty-two dues statements were sent out; 11 have been returned with payment. Diana will send a follow-up email to those who have not yet paid.

Task Force Reports:

- Public Outreach
 - *Home & Garden Expo:* Due to COVID-19, the Kitsap Building Association canceled the event. A full refund will be issued to WaterPAK.
 - *WA Science & Engineering Fair:* The Fair will take place virtually this year due to COVID-19. Jocelyne Gray (WA DOH ODW) added that, according to the WWSEF website, no special awards will be granted this year. Diana has already ordered the trophies with “2020” plaques, but will look into updating them with “2021” next year.
- Legislative
 - Cami reported: The Department of Ecology and the Department of Health presented at the recent WUCC meeting. The DOE is working on updating their Water Rights database and getting through their backlog.
- Conservation
 - Mike Means (WA DOH ODW) reported: Department of Ecology’s Drought bill passed, meaning that if a future drought is declared, the funding can be applied to different stages and can go beyond the drought period.
- Cross-connection
 - Diana reported: Eight people have responded with interest of being a part of this taskforce. Diana will send out an email on Friday to those who have responded – a day/time to meet via conference call will be discussed.
- Mapping/GIS
 - Shawn will check with his office to see if there are any updates on the mapping software.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

- Shawn reported on the challenges the virus has brought to companies and agencies. He cautioned people to get their news and updates from state and local health departments and the CDC, not social media. He added that the DOH now has a COVID-19 taskforce. Mike explained the DOH’s proactive approach to reassure citizens that strict safety measures are always in place to protect



drinking water from viruses, bacteria, and other contaminants. Jocelyne added that there is currently a shortage of household bleach. This is an issue for smaller water systems that use

bleach to sanitize their wells. Jocelyne commented that this is a good time for utilities to share their resources with one another. Shawn mentioned that WA Water has held meetings to discuss action plans for potential shortages of both supplies and staff. He stressed that it is important for utilities to work together during this time.

PFAS

- Mike gave an overview of the legislative bills that were proposed for PFAS – none passed. The DOH will continue to work on proposing new State Action Levels (SAL). Mike mentioned that the PFAS presentation he gave at the February ERWOW conference is available on YouTube. He added that the reason they have not created an MCL is due to the lack of concrete data thus far. The first step is to establish a SAL. They are working closely with the DOE. Diana reported that the Navy has one exceedance so far from their testing.

General Discussion:

- Kevin Odegard (Northwest Water Systems (NWS)) mentioned that NWS is interested in rejoining WaterPAK. Diana will reach out to them.
- Mike mentioned that some operators may be struggling to earn their CEUs due to conference and event cancellation. Bill Bernier (WA DOH ODW) added that the DOH is looking into offering electronic meetings and classes that will allow for remote interaction. The trainers will reach out to utilities with class/training information when it becomes available.
- Joel asked what other utilities and agencies are doing in response to COVID-19. KPUD employees can work from home. Cami added that the City of Bremerton has implemented a similar policy. They are also looking at modifying their sick leave policy since new staff members have low sick leave balances. COB is now allowing employees to carry negative sick leave balances. They also reviewed their Continuity of Operations plans and discussed their minimum staffing requirements. Joel added that KPUD has stocked up on sodium hypochlorite and rubbing alcohol and topped off their generators.
- Jocelyne said that she will be telecommunicating over the next few weeks. She is still scheduled to do sanitary surveys in April. If things change, she will reach out to those utilities and reschedule. She is reachable by cell phone and email.

Adjournment: With no further business to discuss, Cami made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Paul Green (KPUD) seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:53 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana Temple
WaterPAK Secretary/Treasurer