

Whatcom County Water District #7
Commissioner Meeting
14 October 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners for Whatcom County Water District #7 was held on 14th October 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioners present were Mark Lann, George Kaas & Tessa Ebbesen, also present were Dave Olson, Operations Manager, & Deanna Dobbs, Office Manager

Call to order: 5:00 p.m.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Motion: Tessa the Board of Commissioners hereby approve Minutes.
2nd: George Motion Carried.

Claims & Payroll were reviewed.

Motion: Tessa the Board of Commissioners hereby approve claims and payroll in the total amount of \$46,863.27
2nd: George Motion Carried.

Adjustments:

Past Due Report:

Past Due list was reviewed.

Financials:

Financial details attached to these minutes were reviewed.

Operations Report:

No report this month

Public Comment: Opened at 5:07 p.m.

The public comment portion of the meeting was closed at 5:07 p.m.

Old Business:

Capital Projects – See Capital Project Discussion Under New Business

Annual COLA Benchmark –

Administrative Staff provided Commissioners with a District Calendar of administrative recurring and routine activities. The board briefly discussed the need for a COLA benchmark. The board decided to include 4% COLA in the budget for budgeting purposes only but did not make a final decision on what COLA benchmark that will be used. The COLA benchmark will be discussed at a later board meeting.

New Business:

2026 Draft Budget Review –

A Draft Budget was provided for review and discussion. Several budget adjustments were made and will be included in the updated budget for review and the next meeting. The goal is to adopt a final budget after the COB water rates are published.

Rates & Fee's –

2026 Rates & Fee's sheet will be provided to Commissioner's for review at the next Commissioner's Meeting in November and final approval will be subject to receipt of City of Bellingham water rates .

Resolution 2025-10 Ordering the Cancellation of Warrants more than a year old. -

Motion: Mark the Board of Commissioners hereby order cancellation of warrant #01173351 in the amount of \$103.60 dated 7/25/23.

2nd: George Motion Carried.

Capital Projects –

On October 8th, the Washington State Public Works Boards notified the District of conditional approval for the loan applications for both Capital Projects (Toad Lake Rd. & Academy Rd.). The board had an in-depth discussion about the importance of continuing forward with the Capital Improvements identified in the approved Comprehensive Water System Plan. The next priority is the Districts aging distribution system on Toad Lake Road and Academy. The board considered the Public Works Board funding, low interest rate, readiness to proceed, availability of funds now and in the future, the cost to proceed with the project now or in the future at higher costs due to inflation, the risks of not replacing the fragile cement pipe, and impact to customers on a monthly basis.

Motion: Mark the Board of Commissioners hereby approve proceeding with both Capital Projects (Toad Lake Rd. & Academy Rd) and provide the Public Works Board with notice of intent to accept the funding.

2nd: Tessa Passed Unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on 11 November 2025.



Mark Lann, President



George Kaas, Commissioner



Tessa Ebbesen, Commissioner