

# Belfair Sewer Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – Thursday, April 10, 2014

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Regular meeting called to order on April 10, 2014, at 6:01 pm by Jack Johnson, Chair.

**Members:** Jack Johnson, Rob Drexler, Bob Harris, Annetta Knight, Greg Waggett, Lee Swoboda, Jennifer Hines

**County staff:** John Cunningham, Tom Moore

**Guests:** Jeff Carey

**Motion:** Lee moved to accept the minutes as emailed. Annetta seconded. Motion passed.

**Motion:** Annetta moved to accept the agenda. Bob seconded. Motion passed.

**Discussion topic:** Greg noted that in reviewing the draft of the categorized list of past meeting minutes emailed to committee members on April 7, he found many action items and requests for information throughout the minutes, but we have no way of knowing which have been completed. Lee suggested labeling action items in future minutes so they are easier to track. Jack suggested the Secretary send a separate email after each meeting containing just the action items for that meeting. Lee offered to prepare a list of action items from previous meetings.

**Action item:** Label action items in future meeting minutes and send an email listing action items after each meeting. **Action:** Judy

**Action item:** Compile a list of action items in previous meeting minutes. **Action:** Lee

**Discussion topic:** Did the county establish an official email address for the committee? Note: Annetta previously volunteered to monitor the email and forward any incoming messages to the committee members' emails.

**Action item:** Email the official email address to committee members. **Action:** Tom

**Public input:** Ken VanBuskirk was unable to attend tonight's meeting, but asked Bob to ask if the buildings being torn down on the west side of SR-3 near NE Alder Creek Ln will result in a loss of two ERUs. Tom indicated that the WDFW purchased the three properties, which they are restoring to native habitat. The net loss will be one ERU, not two.

**Discussion topic:** Sunshine's fruit stand moved to make room for Taco Bell®. Will the relocated fruit stand be required to connect to the sewer? Tom indicated that decision is up to the Health and Building Departments and will depend on whether they will be allowed to permanently use a portable toilet.

**Discussion topic:** Jack reminded the committee we need to decide how we are going to develop recommendations and pass them to the BOCC. The consensus was that we will recommend ideas incrementally as soon as we have vetted them for feasibility and are able to provide supporting rationale.

**Discussion topic:** A district is a municipality, which is a subdivision of the state rather than of the county. The consensus is that the committee's proposal for a county-wide sewer district is not intended to create a separate governmental entity that subjugates the county's governance of the three county-owned and -operated sewer systems. John suggested a better term would be a "county-wide utility." Jack said his intent in proposing a county-wide entity is to provide consistency in rate structures, ordinances and governance across all three systems. The oversight might be an advisory committee comprised of representatives from the three districts, providing recommendations to the BOCC, which would remain the governing body. The committee also explored pros and cons of including the two County-owned and -operated water systems in a combined water-sewer utility district. Combining all county-run utilities might allow increased fungibility of revenue, operating, maintenance and capital costs across more assets, which could potentially reduce aggregate costs.

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Tom provided an example of the current complexity he encounters: if he repairs the truck he is using to service all utilities, he must issue four checks, one from each utility to pay its "share" of the cost. Jack proposed making a county-wide utility the main topic of discussion at the committee's next meeting.

**Discussion topic:** John indicated the County had prepared a study of the impact of consolidating utilities.

**Action item:** Provide a copy of the utility consolidation report to committee members. **Action:** John

**Discussion topic:** Rob discussed the committee's idea for a sales tax increment specifically to fund sanitary sewers with the Department of Revenue. The county is at the limit of its general sales tax authority. Sanitary sewers are not one of categories eligible for special purpose sales tax increments. Authorizing a special purpose sales tax increment for sewer infrastructure would require legislative action. It's possible one of the currently authorized special-purpose sale tax increments could be increased to free general fund revenue for sewers, but that would not provide a stable cash flow to sewers because general fund revenues can be reallocated easily.

**Discussion topic:** Greg reminded he had asked for economic data and demographics about the residents within the Belfair UGA to help us evaluate the various financial options.

**Action item:** Obtain economic and demographic data from the EDC. **Action:** Rob

**Discussion topic:** Annetta suggested the REIT could be increased, which would provide funding that is fenced for infrastructure. Rob said the REIT is already much higher than other states and that the real estate industry would likely vigorously oppose any further increase.

**Discussion topic:** Kitsap County assesses \$7 per property for storm water management.

**Action item:** Obtain details about Kitsap County's property tax assessment for storm water management and its applicability to waste water management. **Action:** Greg

**Discussion topic:** The Kitsap Sun published an article highlighting Hood Canal contamination from untreated pollutants in storm and sanitary [1]. The consensus is that the committee needs to continue to consider existing North and South Shore development in discussions of sewer expansion.

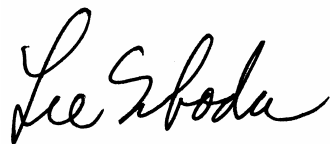
**Discussion topic:** Jack proposed that committee consider recommending allowing formation of irrigation districts to install and manage "purple pipe" [2] distribution systems for industrial, landscaping and agricultural use. Recycling reclaimed water would not only be "environment friendly," and recharge aquifers, it would potentially reduce treatment costs by mitigating the need to increase the area necessary for an infiltration spray field.

**Motion:** Annetta moved we reserve the remainder of the agenda for the next meeting and adjourn.

Adjourned 7:35 pm

**Next meeting:** April 24, 2014, 6:00 pm at the Port of Allyn meeting room

Respectfully submitted,



Lee Swoboda, ad hoc secretary

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<sup>1</sup> Dunagan, Christopher. "Chemical in coffee becomes a marker for human waste." Kitsap Sun. Scripps Interactive Newspapers Group. 10 Apr 2014. <<http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/2014/apr/10/chemical-in-coffee-becomes-a-marker-for-human/>>

<sup>2</sup> Reclaimed water produced as a byproduct of sanitary treatment