



*"Eastsound Water Users Association is a service-oriented association whose goal is to utilize all available resources to ensure that an adequate and consistent supply of safe, reliable, and palatable water is provided to its members"*

## **Eastsound Water Users Association Regular Board Meeting**

Orcas Island Fire Hall Public Meeting Room

08/23/2024

5:00 PM

The meeting was held in person at the Orcas Island Fire Department public meeting room.

**Board Members Present:** Teri Nigretto, Jim Nelson, Leith Templin, Jim Cook, Ron Claus (zoom) , Carol Anderson (absent), Mike Cleveland. General Manager, Dan Burke and Cory Harrington as minutes recorder were also present. Rochelle Doyea (zoom) Attorney for the membership, Shawn Alexander for the minority board was present.

**President Teri Nigretto** called the meeting to order at 5:06

### **Approval of Agenda**

### **Public Comment**

Fred Klien questioned why the Board President was able to address the members on the web site and that he strongly supported confidential balloting  
Vickie Leimback- see attached letter she read at the meeting

### **Recall Petition**

Teri Nigretto acknowledged that the two Recall Petitions have been received and certified

### **The following motions are in accordance with the EWUA Bylaws**

Teri Nigretto presented the **notice of the special member meeting** to the board

### **Motion:**

**Leith Templin** made a motion to approve the special member meeting notice with the addition of adding "bring your drivers license or other identification to the meeting"

**Michael Cleveland** seconded the motion

**Passed unanimously**

**Proxy Card**

Leith Templin explained to the public that the proper form for our voting procedure is called a proxy not a ballot and Nelson stated that the purpose of the proxy is to enable our members that are not living on the island full time or are not able to attend our meeting that they will have an opportunity to cast their proxy vote.

**Motion:**

**Michael Cleaveland** made a motion to accept the proxy as presented

**Jim Nelson seconded** the motion

Leith Templin explained to Jim Cook that there is a new post office box #24 and is under the name of Election Inspector and he/she/they will be the only ones that access the mail box and then the proxies will be transferred to the safe deposit box at Banner Bank that was procured for the last election and the inspector(s) also are the only signers and have the only keys to the box.

Rochelle Doyea clarified that if people want to make sure that their vote is not public then they need to vote by proxy.

**Vote**

**Passed Unanimously**

**Election Inspector**

**Motion:**

**Jim Nelson moves** to appoint Stu Andrews as the Election Inspector.

**Michael Cleaveland seconded** the motion

**Vote**

**Passed Unanimously**

**Discussion with the public**

Recall Members meeting will be at **the Orcas Center** September 28, 2024 at 5:00 pm

Proxys ballots need to be mailed by September 14, 2024

Discussion about the process from mailing proxy to the actual meeting. Even if a proxy was postmarked after the 14<sup>th</sup> the inspector will be picking up the mail from the mailbox the day of the meeting, We are instructing the inspector to use his best judgment and if there is a question about a proxy he will do his best to resolve the situation before the meeting. Our goal is to have as many of our members submit their proxies as possible and to be counted the way they intended.

### **Memorandum of Understanding**

Rochelle Doyea (members attorney) and Shawn Alexander (Ron Claus, Carol Anerson and Jim Cook's attorney) will go over the redline version of the memorandum and the board will discuss at next Tuesday's meeting.

### **Motion**

**Michael Cleaveland moved** to adjourn the meeting

**Jim Nelson seconded**

**Passed Unanimously**

**Teri Nigretto adjourned at 6:13**

**Next meeting is next Tuesday, August 27, 2024**

**This is the regular meeting**

### **Attachment:**

**Letter from Vickie Leimback**

**8/23/2024**

**I spoke during public comment at the last EWUA meeting, please add into the mins.**

-----

**Thank you Teri for the emails you have sent out regarding this situation with Steve Smith of Recall Water and his intentions of "owning a water company". Thank you also for the explanation regarding the funds Dan Burke has been accused of taking without any approval. He did not take funds as recall is implying. Thank you for clearing his name in this.**

**Dan Burke, thank you for your hard work, despite having to deal with these attacks of your reputation that are very hurtful, baseless and horrible. You have always been a pleasure to interact with for any assistance I have needed from EWUA. The entire staff is pleasant and hard working, that doesn't happen without good leadership!! Thank you Dan.**

**The 3 board members who have, in my opinion, violated their fiduciary responsibilities by joining forces with Mr. Parnell, Steve Smith and Recall Water. These people are**

**doing a number on our NON PROFIT water company by crippling our funds with legal fees.. That needs to STOP!**

**Vicki Leimback**

**EWUA Member 2.5 votes**