



“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
May 19, 2026
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, Vaughan Ploeger, Chris Madison(absent), Mike Speece and Madeline Danielson, and General Manager, Dan Burke.

President Teri Nigretto called the meeting to order at 5:04pm

Additions to the Agenda

Added and Executive Session following the GM Report

Fred Kline asked that the board have a discussion between themselves after public comment so they could hear our comments/thoughts. It would be just between the board members and no dialog with the audience.

Public Comment

There were about 75 public members in attendance. Many were concerned about the recent employee departures and wanting to know what was being done about it and were requesting a 3rd party investigation.

Minute approval

Motion: Mike Speece moved to accept the minutes of April 21, 2026 as presented

Second: Vaughan Ploeger

Approved

Board Business

The Inn at Ships Bay (326 Properties LLC) wants to transfer a water membership from one parcel to another that they own. Our rules allow for a membership transfer when both TPN's are owned by the exact same entity, and they have met all of our operating rules.

Motion: Mike Speece moved to accept the member request from The Inn at Ships Bay.

Second: Jim Nelson

Approved

Rate Change for Recording Easements

The office staff is requesting a new rate for recording easements. Prices have gone up for recording easements, and the office would like to raise our rates for transfers fees from \$250.00 to \$306.00 to cover our expenses. SJC filing fees for easement start at \$305.00 for the 1st page. Seller (inspection/closing estimate): \$153 and the buyer (creating new agreement): \$153

Discussion of new easement recording fees.

Motion: Madeline moved to accept the office recommendation to increase the easement recording fees to \$153 as of June 1, 2026

Second: Vaughn Ploegert

Approved

GM Report

Dan delivered his report

Highlights:

Asphalt on Main Street. Island Excavation is coordinating that with us and the asphalt company.

L&I Claims

Because some members in our community have suggested that EWUA faces serious, unresolved pattern of labor violations Dan Burke, our GM reported that is not accurate. We have worked through five L&I claim over the past year. There were several things from a safety review, workplace injury claim from a prior year, a retaliation complaint and a wage dispute. In every case EWUA engaged directly and cooperated fully, and either resolved the matter or achieved a favorable outcome. The number of complaints directed at EWUA and the amount of the fines are entirely consistent with an organization of our size and complexity. Dan went into all 5 claims during the meeting.

Union update: Since our last meeting there has been 1 meeting in April and three in May. It's a complicated process and we are nearing the end. Down to just a couple of things with wages and standby time.

Clark Well

Working on the underground piping. Great progress. A 8'x8'x8' vault is to be delivered tomorrow. Also, working with OPAL on restoration of grounds between our properties.

CoBank loan update. We received approval of a \$500,000 addition to our original loan to finish the project. We have an open draw period until December 31, 2026 and we do not need to take the full amount without penalties. We are getting into the final phase of this project and are looking forward to an open house to celebrate the end of this 20 year project.

Motion: Leith moves to have Dan Burke our GM to drawn \$180 ,000 out of the CoBank loan to pay the current bills for the Clark Well.

Second: Mike Speece

Approved

Annual Report for Doe Bay and Olga are due the 15th of May. It was delivered two days early. Thanks to Ryan for getting, it in on time. Last year we were a month late. They in turn have to send their report to the Dept of Health.

Teri Nigretto adjourned into Executive Session at 6:16pm.

There will be no action taken after the Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,
Leith Templin/Secretary