



“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

September 15, 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 (Zoom).

President Teri Nigretto called the meeting to order at 5:05pm

Additions to the Agenda

- SBS update
- Executive Session
- Billing System transition
- Funding for Assistance Program

Public Comment

Two members asked questions regarding the funding for the assistance program, notification of rate increase, cost of legal fees, and committee on finances.

Minute approval

Motion: Mike Speece moves to approve August 18, 2026 minutes as presented.

Second: Vaughn Ploeger

Approved

Board Business

SBS

Leith Templin discussed the upcoming SPS election process explaining that two seats are up for election and applications are due by noon on September 29th. The board reviewed the timeline for the election, including ballot mailing on October 22nd, email ballots sent on November 2nd and voting closing on November midnight of November 12th. The group also discussed email delivery issues and agreed to work on improving email communication by adding a banner to the website when the ballots are dropping and sending individual emails to members as a reminder.

Financial Assistance Program

Madeline Danielson presented her research with the Orcas Island Community Foundation to create a fund to collect money for the financial assistance program. She needs \$5,000 to start the fund. She is fairly confident that she could raise the money to start the fund. The board reviewed a previous COVID relief fund from 2021-2022 that was partially utilized with D. Burke noting that staff had done above average work managing that program. It was clarified that in last month's meeting there was a motion to approve a \$5 monthly program for the first 85 customers costing \$5,100 for the first year. It was discussed how this new assistance program would be a voluntary contribution system in the future rather than using general budget funds. A rounding up of one's bill, like OPALO uses was one idea.

Motion: Madeline Danielson moves to develop a real proposal for a designated assistance fund with OICF, including to start fundraising efforts to raise the initial \$5,000 to start the fund, starting with the board.

Second: Mike Speece

Approved:

GM Board Report

Dan delivered his report

Highlights:

Accounting

Successful transition from Cassell to QuickBooks, including improved non-profit reporting format and compliance measures, with the system now 95% complete. The organizations benefits package was renewed with minimal cost increases at 17%, which was lower than the industry average. The board discussed transitioning from Cassell to CUSI for water utility billing, with D. Burke presenting the benefits including significant cost savings (half the current cost) and improved accessibility through a web-based system.

Motion: Leith Templin moves to approve the transition of EWUA billing system from Cassell to CUSI

Second: Madeline Danielson

Approved

D. Burke reported that the financial assistance program has been successfully soft-launched with positive feedback.

The \$110,000 grant application was submitted for engineering, water rights, and legal exploration work, to explore the feasibility of an intertie between Eastsound Water and the Rosario Systems. This was submitted in conjunction with Washington Water and is funded by the Dept. of Health.

The Clark Well project is nearing completion with interior work finished and exterior work nearly complete, including electrical installation and compliance software to automate daily monitoring and data entry processes, which has been tested and is ready for implementation during the upcoming cutover period.

Staffing: the organization is fully staffed with the highest level of certifications in history. The board discussed publishing information about their staffing success in The Source newsletter.

Teri Nigretto closed the public portion of the meeting at 6:00pm to go into Executive Session announcing no action will be taken.

Teri Nigretto resumed the public meeting and immediately adjourned the meeting at 7:06pm

Respectfully submitted,
Leith Templin/Secretary