

Baby Island Heights Water Association Annual report for 2023

Annual meetings this year are scheduled for Saturday, August 12, 2023, at Baby Island Saratoga Club! Our BIHWA meeting will be held in conjunction with the Baby Island Beach Club meeting. The Beach Club meeting will begin at 9:00 am and the Water Association meeting will *immediately follow*.

Below are the annual recaps for operations, financial reports, proposed budget, current rate structure. If you are unable to join the meeting, please send the attached ballot/proxy back to us. We require a quorum to validate the annual meeting.

King Water Systems manages our system and contact them with any questions, leaks or issues as follows: **King Water System 888-241-2503**

Operations

During the past calendar year, we had two simultaneous causalities that resulted in our pumping almost 31% more water out of the ground over last year. While this is significantly more than we have drawn in the past five years on an annual basis, it is still less than 2002, when we extracted over 4 million gallons. Our reported metered consumption is still very close to last year's with less than a 1% increase reported. We need to ensure quick responses to any water leaks and ask all our members to monitor their locations. The Consumer Confidence Reports (previously mailed) show we have excellent water with no health issues. The system capacity is sufficient to cover our users, but we encourage conservation.

We have had repeated issues with King getting accurate water meter readings, so the board decided to take the meter reading function back in-house and has hired Chris Bryan to read the meters. That is going very well so far - thank you Chris!

King Water System has been purchased by a company from Oregon, Northwest Natural Water. We have made an initial contact with Northwest Natural so that we can get a better understanding of what to expect in the transition of Kings management. In our conversations with them it is their intention to bring better tools and management methods to improve King performance. King is still our satellite management agency. Just under new management.

We want to remind all members that it is important to conserve this resource, to shut off your water when you're out of town, and to report any leaks or issues quickly to King at 888-241-2503 or their emergency number 888-266-7048

Finance

Since this is sensitive financial information, we removed it before posting on the website, which is public. If you are a homeowner and want detailed financial information, please email us at BIHWA@gmail.com

Rates

The board will not be proposing an increase in water rates this year. However, with new management taking over at King, there is a possibility that there may need to be a rate increase in the future.

Board members

Our board president for the last four years, Al Shott, stepped down on July 10th. Beth Herrild, the vice-president, stepped into the acting president role. Thank you for your service Al!

Andy McFarlane, At Large and Operations board member has agreed to stay for a second 3-year term.

Kay Smith, At Large board member, has declined a second 3-year term. Kay, thank you for your service!

Larry Laissue has agreed to join the board. Larry and his wife, Mary, bought their home on Saratoga Road in December of 2013. Larry has held senior executive positions with Sperry Univac, Xerox, Ricoh, Neopost and most recently retired as President of Kyocera Northwest. Having dealt with many businesses and personnel issues over his 44 years tenure, he is adept and capable of working through complex and difficult situations often resolving them with a mutually positive outcome. They have 2 adult children and enjoy working in their yard as well hiking and kayaking around the Saratoga Passage.

Bill Freeborn has also agreed to join the board. Bill has been coming to Whidbey Island all his life. He and his wife, Mary, bought their property from his uncle in 1986. He was a Damage Control-man in the coast guard. He retired from the postal service 9 years ago after 30 years of service. The last 18 of which he worked in building maintenance working on boilers, heat pumps, roof top units, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, etc and then in management. His last assignment was managing the maintenance for all Seattle post offices. Bill and Mary have grown twin boys.

General comments

To provide better service and communication with all of you we have established a general email account, BIHWA@gmail.com. The board and our accounting firm, Edwards, monitor this for questions and concerns. We would like to get as many of you on our system and ask you to send Edwards your email address so we can utilize this for alerts, water shutoffs or any issues.

Overall, the BIHWA has provided the members with clean, dependable water.

The Board recommends your votes as follows:

- For acceptance of the 2023-2024 financial budget as presented.
- For election of the following to the board: Larry Laissue and Bill Freeborn
- For continuance of the existing water rate schedule.

Please plan on attending the annual meeting **immediately following** the Baby Island Beach 9:00 AM Saturday August 12th at the Baby Island Saratoga Club. If you are unable to attend, please complete the attached proxy and mail it to P.O. Box 233, Freeland, WA or drop it off at Edwards Accounting as soon as possible.

Thank you and feel free to contact any of the Board Members (Email BIHWA@gmail.com) with questions or King Water Service with any system problems.

Respectively submitted,

Beth Herrild, Acting President

Lacey Lantz, Treasurer

Jim Daumen, Secretary

Andy McFarlane, At Large and Operations

Kay Smith, At Large (term expired)

Sandy Wainwright, At Large

Fred Grisley, Operations and Technical Expert (non-board position)