

Camano Water Association
South Expansion Area Water System Extension
Community Workshop

September 17, 2022, 9:00am

Camano County Club, 1243 Beach Drive, Camano Island, WA 98282

9:00 am Meeting Start. Meet and greet.

Ron Cooper, Vice President and Gael Fisk, President welcomed attendees, Board Members, and CWA employees. CWA and property owners made introductions.

9:15 am Slide presentation by Wilson Engineering.

Curt Schoenfelder, P.E., gave the presentation outline: Why Are We Here, Background, Extension Approach Options, General Financing Options, Rates and Charges, and Benefits of Public Water.

Please refer to the presentation attached.

Both CWA and Curt said several times that this is a very preliminary meeting, and nothing has been decided.

CWA will add a recording of the meeting to the website www.camanowater.com

9:45 am Q&A session with attendees, CWA staff, and Curt, Wilson Engineer.

Topics of discussion were funding, environmental impact study, maintaining the trees and the unique area that it is, digging an open trench or boring underground, how was this decision made, cost of water and membership, developer fees, how would a water line affect the current wells at homes, could a well still be drilled, homeowners would like to receive notices, aquifer, salt water intrusion, what is the time frame for this, it could be done in phases or all at once depending on funding and developer and homeowner interest, how many surveys responded with a yes or no, what is the time frame for this, fire prevention in the area.

Here is a summary of information provided by Gael Fisk, CWA President and Dan Peterson, CWA Operations Manager:

Island County requires a Water Availability form to be completed by surrounding water systems, whether they can supply water to the property before an owner digs a new well on Camano Island. The developer owning property in the CWA service area drilled a well without having CWA first complete the Water Availability form. The developer owns 8 lots in the S. Expansion Area and wants to install a water line from the Mountain View Road well to serve their 8 lots water.

It is very costly to remove trees and CWA would not want to do this.

The costs have not been completed or if they would be the same as current CWA rates.

Current wells will not be affected by a new water line; Dan said it would be a sealed system and the water would come from CWA's 3 active wells, pumping 600 gallons / minute.

Peter Turner, IT Support, said CWA is pumping less water now than in the 1950's. CWA uses dataloggers to record the well activity. The number of ERU's (equivalent residential unit) the system has capacity for have been increased to match the wells.

Clay Wallace, Treasurer, noted CWA has capacity for 1,445 ERU's in its previous service area, plus 234 ERU's in the three expansion areas for a total approved capacity of 1,679 ERU. It is very early in the process of making any decisions, but IF CWA decided to proceed with extending our system into the south annexation area, no one would be forced to connect to CWA water. Employees monitor the dataloggers and the recovery is over the winter season, as shown in the graphs kept by Peter and Andrew, IT Support.

Dan explained saltwater intrusion and the DOH would require a homeowner to obtain water from another safe source.

CWA's Water System Plan is reviewed by Island County Public Works, Island County Planning, the Department of Ecology, and Department of Health. CWA held a public meeting; CWA followed the requirements for the public notice.

Gael noted the area was platted in 1936. CWA can handle the expansion, as approved by the above entities, and this area has 128 ERU's.

Lenore Heffernan, CWA Business Manager, said 80 letters, surveys and maps were mailed (there are 153 lots, and several own more than one lot), 27 surveys responded: 13 wanted to know more, 5 were interested, and 9 were not interested.

CWA said they would send another mailing when more information was available, and update the website.

11:27 am Gael Fisk adjourned the meeting.