

Introduction

- A. We are the Sacheen Water and Sewer Board; a junior governmental entity with levying capabilities but a rather narrowly prescribed range of responsibilities and power - more on that later.

- A. Along with the SLA, we are the only organized entity in the community - and we take that responsibility seriously.

- A. We believe in our community - and that we need to come together and do our part to uphold and protect a high quality of life here at Sacheen.

Overview - Personal and Physical Infrastructure of W&S

- A. Who are we and why are we here? We are a team.
- i. **Kris Hansen** **District Manager** jssacheen@jmail.com Office
is in the HWY 211 Fire Station. Phone: (509) 447-4641
- ii. **Casie Monge** (509) 935 - 4175 for service **Maintenance Technician**
- iii. **Shaun Bleecker** shaunbleeks99@gmail.com
Volunteer Commissioner

Overview - Personal and Physical Infrastructure of W&S

- A. Who are we and why are we here? We are a team.
- iv. **Randy Carasco** randysacheen@outlook.com
Volunteer Commissioner
- v. ***Rod Griggs** beelineautomotive@comcast.net
Volunteer Commissioner
- B. Physical Infrastructure in the Sacheen area entails servicing 310 residences with everything needed to make things flow smoothly - hopefully.

A Bit of History

- - i. From 2010 to 2014, a renewed drive to establish a sewer system was undertaken as the Sacheen W&S LID was approved and reams of studies, neighborhood chats, paperwork and preparation occurred.
 - ii. Ground for the sewer system was broken on June 20, 2014 and construction was completed on September 29, 2015.
- After forty years of intermittent attempts and a few bumps in the road along the way, the Sacheen W&S Sewer System had come to fruition!
- - iii. After overseeing this herculean task, the Pearmans, Peggy Johnsen and Gary Garrett stepped aside in the late 2010's. It would be impossible to overstate the massive contributions that they have made to maintaining and improving Sacheen's quality of life!

Budget Stuff in a Nutshell -

- **A. Our yearly budget is about \$254,000.**
- **B. In theory, the levy part of the revenue base is intended to support Milfoil/invasive species treatment, maintenance and caretaking for the Myers- Harter Sanctuary, W&S District insurance, salaries and beaver mitigation/lake level efforts. However, the truth is that - as is oftentimes the case with peas, mashed potatoes and gravy being mixed on a kid's plate - the perception of rigid fiscal separation in terms of where one item stops and another begins in terms of M&O or levy funding sources is really more of a matter of semantics than discrete reality.**

Budget Stuff in a Nutshell - continued

- **C. That being said, the salient point is that about 29% of the W&S District's effective operating budget is dependent upon the levy.**
- **D. In the event of another levy failure as happened in 2018, lake treatment would be the first to go. At that point, we might have enough to muddle through but it is possible we would have to raise rates to cover salaries and operating expenses.**
- **E. About 76% of your monthly payment (\$151.41 of the \$200.41) goes to service \$9 million in loans that were taken out to get the W&S system going - only \$49 goes to our operating expenses.**
- **There was also about \$5 million in grants, by the way.**

Budget Stuff in a Nutshell - continued

- **F. As these loans will not be paid off until 2036, there will be no significant rate relief until then.**
- **G. The payments are what they are because of construction overruns due in large part to unanticipated granite related drilling issues and environmental regulations and laws evolving and becoming more stringent during the process.**

Budget Stuff in a Nutshell - continued

- **H. For those of you wondering about accountability, we are watched over and audited by the county and the state and we have no bank account or petty cash as it all goes through Pend Oreille County. This is what makes us a “special purpose” junior governmental entity much like a fire district.**
- **So, even if one of us did want to mine that Sacheen stream of black or brown gold (methane gas, maybe?) to set up an offshore account in the Caymans and expatriate to Costa Rica, well, good luck with that. Also, as was mentioned, our budget is \$254,000 a year so...**

Budget Stuff in a Nutshell - continued

- **I. To our way of thinking, a budget that depends upon what is essentially a sunset source of funding - the levy - for sustaining day-to-day operations is less than ideal or stable but it is what it is and we are doing our best to stay lean and efficient. That being said...**
- **J. Also, as you may know, inflation and supply chain issues are raging and much of the W&S infrastructure is starting to age and break down. Accordingly, while we'd love to avoid a rate increase and to tell you one will never be necessary, we need to tell you the truth in that it may.**

AquaTechnex and Lake Treatment

- **A. As mentioned earlier, Sacheen W&S has been responsible for arranging lake treatment since the 1990's.**
- **B. We currently rely on AquaTechnex for this service and - while we certainly negotiate on behalf of the best interests of the ratepayers - we rely on their professional expertise in terms of treatment.**
- **C. Also, it should be noted that some species that have become dense in areas of the lake such as large-leaf pondweed are NATIVE rather than invasive and therefore cannot be treated.**
- **D. On a somewhat related note, we resumed water testing last year and it was found that e coli and other various elements of concern were all at acceptable levels.**

AquaTechnex and Lake Treatment

- **E. As of late, we have found them highly responsive to our needs and concerns and the recent treatments have yielded great results.**
- **F. Our focus, like AquaTechnex's, is to see treatment that is best for the Sacheen Community and lake as a whole and we hope and trust that you agree! When it comes to that, we trust their professional judgement.**
- **G. We depend on the levy to fund lake treatment. The amount spent in recent years has run from \$22,000 to \$30,000 depending upon the need and how much money we have available which is generally about 1/3rd to 40% of the levy.**
- **For those of you who are interested in learning more, we will publicize when Bradley Roth from AquaTech next attends a W&S meeting. We have also sent out information by email and will try to do so again this year.**

What the W&S Board Can and Cannot Do and the Community

- **A. Over the last few plus years, we have been asked to oppose county level zoning changes and development, express concern to P.O.C. about water table issues, express concern to P.O.C. about fireworks use and regulation, address airbnb operations, force trailers to hook up and more.**
- **B. Unfortunately, these are not concerns we can address. We are a junior governmental entity which is not to be confused with a greater Sacheen grassroots community advocacy organization.**
- **Legally, we can only act and give input when P.O.C. or developers come to us and want to access our system and resources - that's it.**

What the W&S Board Can and Cannot Do and the Community

- C. In fact, if we were to attempt to expand the narrow parameters of our legal power, that would raise potential conflict of interest concerns and we would be putting the W&S District and - by extension - you the ratepayers, in a position of potential litigious vulnerability so a big no thanks on that! **Talk about rates going up!**
- D. As for enforcement regarding new construction to hook up, etc., that is through P.O.C. and its permit process. As unpaid volunteers, I am pretty sure that none of us are willing to grab Mr. Smith and Mr. Wesson and go tell people they have to hook up. If that's what you expect then ***No, no, no, it ain't me, babe, you're looking for!***

What the W&S Board Can and Cannot Do and the Community

- **E. A few recommendations and observations if we may:**
- **i. To our perception, there is a huge need in the community for grassroots activity and organization. In the years to come, issues such as drought, lower water tables, invasive species, balanced development and fire danger are only going to become more acute and there is a growing need for us to come together to effectively address these needs as a community.**
- **ii. Entities such as P.O.C. respond to numbers - they count votes and it is that simple. If you want to impact policy, you have to be organized, proactive and have numbers.**

What the W&S Board Can and Cannot Do and the Community

- **E. A few recommendations and observations if we may:**
- **iii. While a junior governmental entity such as Sacheen W&S cannot do this, private citizens and organizations can and we would encourage you to step up and help in creating and executing a vision of WHAT IS BEST FOR THE COMMUNITY!**
- **iv. Sure, it takes time, organization and money but our community needs it and is worth it!**

What the W&S Board Can and Cannot Do and the Community

- **F. Ask not what your community can do for you ...**
- **G. Friar John and the American Dream**

Closing Comments

- ***Feel free to email with questions; we will do our best but please remember we are unpaid volunteers with full-time plus other responsibilities: randysacheen@outlook.com**
- ***You are always welcome at our meetings; second Wednesday of each month, 5 PM at this fire station.**

Closing Comments

- **We hope that our presentation has been informative.**
- **Thank you so much for coming; it has been our pleasure and privilege to interact with you!**