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January 2025 Newsletter

OFFICERS 2025

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Hello Members of the Group,

The January meeting was held via Zoom on 01/15/2025 at 10:00 AM.

Attendees:

Kathy Caldwell – City of Snohomish; Don Leland – STOP Inc.; Randy Hude – Arbiter Incorporated; Iliya Andreev – City of Redmond; Wednesday Smith – Batgirl Backflow Testing; Brett Baker – City of Bothell; Carla Snyder and Mike Jordan – Coal Creek Utility District; Tim Cantwell – Woodinville Water District; Courtney Shilling – Skagit PUD; Chris Klancke – City of Leavenworth; Brandon Glatt – Lakehaven Water District; Chris Sutton – Backflows Northwest; Bob Hubbert – City of Seattle

Old Business. Transition to new treasurer. We will finalize the field trip options, group picnic locations, and annual seminar locations.

Iliya and Jeff K are now the co-signatories on the Group account, Chris S has been removed from the account. Next step is to meet with accountant to get access to QuickBooks File to keep better track of everything. Labor and Industries needs to be updated with Iliya and remains to be done. Chris will continue to help in the transition.

New Business – Planning for the annual BAT Forum, now to be held virtually on 2/19/2025 via Zoom.

Randy Hude will be set as a speaker for the BAT forum and give a presentation called Soft Skills for BATs.

Three 45-minute slots proposed. Randy would fill 1 slot, possibly Jim from BAVCO could give a talk like he agreed last year (Don will reach out).

Kathy opined that it might be good to get BAT perspective on all the portals they have to contend with...this led to a discussion about software solutions. Don pointed out there is no specific BAT software solution in the mix aside from Watts' Syncta offering. His company is a ways away from getting software launched. Purveyor side software has no API and nothing for BATs. Not much innovation or change on that front in quite some time, per Tim. Spokane is trying to work on something software-wise. TYPE 2 DA the focus, as Swift Comply does not have a good solution. Swift Comply recognizes the need and potential for a BAT-side solution but has not apparently done anything.

Challenges in communication between BATs and water purveyors proposed as a topic. How does a BAT or contractor get the information they need from the purveyor to know who to test and where? Some districts request the information not be used for personal gain / business purposes. An opportunity to discuss improved communication.

This was a panel discussion topic last year. How did that go? No one present seemed to recall.

Perhaps Eric Shea the new director of WETRC will be available to discuss WETRC, his involvement, history, etc. Kathy will follow up with him.

Bill Bernier needs to be asked as well as Meghan with WSC for giving updates, 30 mins total expected for the two of them. Don to follow up with them (?)

Bob H suggested sending out an invite (perhaps a survey?) to the mailing list about the solution side of things ahead of the meeting as it relates to the panel discussion to avoid simply becoming a complaint session. Don will work on a survey for this, and the officers will formalize the survey questions, and Randy will send out the survey to the mailing list.

Follow-ups from this meeting:

- Field trip for July 2025 options – Tim C will contact Brightwater facility, seems to be the leading option now.
- Group picnic for August 2025 – Iliya will plan to reserve Redmond Perrigo Park after the February meeting unless a worthy alternative is put forward.

- Annual Seminar for October 2025 – Delynn was to research the Delta Hotel in Everett. Tacoma La Quinta offered as an old standby if not very exciting. No other alternatives or volunteers for research put forward.

Next meeting is 2/19/2025 from 8 am to 12 pm for the annual BAT Forum! An initial invitation will be sent via email ~2/13/2025. With a planned reminder 2/18/2025.

Zoom Meeting Link for February 19, 2025:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86100205777?pwd=aHBpTXJHWFprRTg2TFkyWnB0MEM3Zz09>

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Kathy Caldwell at 10:56 AM PST.