

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Mark McCauley, County Administrator

DATE: August 11, 2023

SUBJECT: Hearing Notice: Hearing to Consider Dissolving Drainage District No. 1,
aka Chimacum Drainage District

STATEMENT OF ISSUE: The Board of County Commissioners received a notice earlier this year from the Jefferson County Auditor indicating that the Chimacum Drainage District appears to have met a number of the criteria in RCW 36.96.010 required to be declared inactive:

- (3) "Inactive" means that a special purpose district is characterized by any of the following criteria:
- (a) Has not carried out any of the special purposes or functions for which it was formed within the preceding consecutive five-year period;
 - (b) No election has been held for the purpose of electing a member of the governing body within the preceding consecutive seven-year period or, in those instances where members of the governing body are appointed and not elected, where no member of the governing body has been appointed within the preceding seven-year period; or
 - (c) The special purpose district has been determined to be unauditably by the state auditor;

The Auditor's notice also indicated that a public hearing needed to be held on or about September 1, 2023 to determine if the district has in fact met the criteria for being declared inactive and further to decide whether to dissolve the district.

The attached hearing notice setting such a hearing will meet the statutory requirement for being published in our legal paper of record for three consecutive weeks: 16, 23 and 30 September 2023.

ANALYSIS: Commissioner Eisenhower and Administrator McCauley have been engaging with key stakeholders regarding the district to determine what course of action to recommend to the Board during the public hearing. There are several options to consider. Among those are:

- Take no action – declare the district inactive and do not dissolve it
- Declare it inactive and dissolve it
- Reactivate the district in its current form
- Change the purpose of the district perhaps adding irrigation and/or watershed improvement to its mission

Reactivation and changing the purpose would require substantial interest by residents of the district and would require a public vote to elect officers and impose a property tax assessment on residents.

Dissolving the district presents a host of issues such as the disposition of easements between the district and landowners in the district.

FISCAL IMPACT: This request has no fiscal impact other than the cost of publishing the hearing notice three times which is minor.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approve the attached hearing notice.

REVIEWED BY:


Mark McCauley, County Administrator

8/10/23
Date

Please publish 3 times: August 16, 23, and 30, 2023

Contact Person: Mark McCauley, County Administrator
Bill to: Jefferson County Commissioners
P.O. Box 1220
Port Townsend, WA 98368

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

To consider whether to dissolve Drainage District No. 1, aka Chimacum Drainage District.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing is scheduled by the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners for **MONDAY, September 1 at 2:00 p.m.** in the Commissioners' Chambers, County Courthouse, 1820 Jefferson Street, Port Townsend, WA 98368 (HYBRID). Notice of said hearing is to be published in the official newspaper of Jefferson County.

This hearing is for the Board of County Commissioners to discuss the inactivity of the Chimacum Drainage District and what action to take due to this inactivity. The hearing will discuss efforts being made relative to revitalizing the district in its current form, changing its purpose to include adding irrigation or watershed management and arguments for dissolving it.

The information is available for viewing on the County website by clicking on:
www.co.jefferson.wa.us – Services – Laserfiche Web Portal – Board of Commissioners – BOCC Agenda Packet – 2023 Weekly Agenda Items – 09 September 2023 – 090123 – Drainage District No. 1, aka Chimacum Drainage District.

You are welcome to participate in this hearing. You will need to join the meeting by 2:00 p.m. using the following methods: **VIRTUALLY:** Via the following Zoom, link:
<https://zoom.us/j/93777841705>, **PHONE:** Dial 1-253-215-8782 and enter access code: 937-7784-1705# and press *9 to “raise your hand” to be called upon. Access for the hearing impaired can be accommodated using Washington Relay Service at 1-800-833-6384, or **IN-PERSON**

To view documents or watch this meeting live with no participation, go to www.co.jefferson.wa.us Follow the links under “*Quick Links: Videos of Meetings: Today.*” If you experience difficulties joining the meeting or viewing documents please call 360-385-9100 to report any issues.

In addition, written testimony is also invited beginning on August 16, 2023 and ending on September 1, 2023 at the end of the Public Hearing, unless extended by the Board of County Commissioners. Written public testimony may be submitted by **Email to:** jeffbocc@co.jefferson.wa.us You may view testimony received by clicking here: www.co.jefferson.wa.us – Services – Laserfiche Web Portal – Board of County Commissioners - BOCC Agenda Packets - 2023 Weekly Agenda Items - 09 September 2023 - 090123

You can also **Mail** your testimony to: Jefferson County Commissioners' Office; P.O. Box 1220, Port Townsend, WA 98368. Written testimony must be received by the Board of County Commissioners by the end of the hearing testimony period.

Signed this 11th day of August, 2023.

JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
/S/Greg Brotherton, Chair