

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Mark McCauley, County Administrator

DATE: September 1, 2023

SUBJECT: Public 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 unauditable by the state auditor;

The Auditor's notice also indicated that a public hearing needed to be held by 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 hearing was published in our legal paper of record for three consecutive weeks: 16, 23 and 30 September 2023. It was also posted on the county website over the same time period.

ANALYSIS: Commissioner Eisenhour 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.

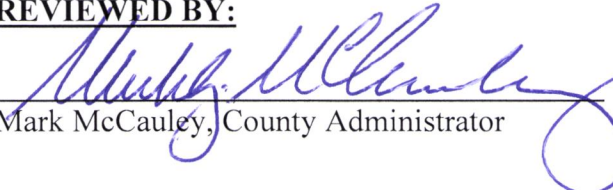
Dissolving the district presents a host of issues such as the disposition of easements between the district and landowners in the district.

A 2022 report of then current conditions of the drainage district completed by the Jefferson County Conservation District is attached for background purposes.

FISCAL IMPACT: This request has no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board open the hearing, hear a brief staff presentation (attached), take public testimony, discuss and deliberate, close the hearing and then take-action.

REVIEWED BY:



Mark McCauley, County Administrator

8/31/23
Date