



Water Conservancy Board

- Chair:** Jon Hare
- Secretary:** Michael Schwisow
- Term:** 6 years (after initial variable terms to establish staggered terms)
- Members:** 5 + 2 Alternates
- Meets:** Third Monday of each month unless legal holiday
- Contact:** Water Conservancy Board of Thurston County
Michael Schwisow, Secretary
Thurston County Water Conservancy Board
P.O. Box 1037
Olympia WA 98507-1037
360-705-1975 or mschwisow@aol.com
- Department of Ecology Conservancy Board Coordinator
Janet L. Carlson, Ecology Water Resources Program
Phone: 509-329-3421
Fax: 509-329-3529
Email: jaca461@ecy.wa.gov
- Duties:** Act on applications for changes to existing water rights. WCB decisions are subject to final action by the Washington Department of Ecology.
- Qualifications:** At least one member must be a water right holder who diverts or withdraws water for use within the area served by the board. One member must be a person who is not a water right holder. Members must be residents of the county or a county that is contiguous. Prior to participating in water right change decisions, members must have training and approval by the Department of Ecology, and must meet continuing education requirements of the Department. **(See RCW 90.80.050.)**
- Appointment:** By the Board of County Commissioners.
- Vacancies:** Filled in the same manner as original appointments.
- Removal:** By the Board of County Commissioners.
- Authority:** A water conservancy board is a separate unit of local government in the state. They have authority to consider and adopt a record of decision for the same types of water right transfers that the Department of Ecology may consider. A water conservancy board may acquire real and personal property, appoint and employ employees, contract for professional services, sue and be sued, and do any and all lawful acts required and expedient to carry out the purposes of this chapter. A board constitutes an independently funded entity, and may provide for its own funding as determined by the WCB commissioners. The board may accept grants and may adopt fees for processing applications for transfers of water rights to fund the activities of the board. A board may not impose taxes or acquire property by the exercise of eminent domain. **RCW 90.80.060** defines WCB authority. **Resolutions: 12001, 12046, 12768 and 12779**
- Compensation:** None. Entitled to reimbursement from the WCB for necessary travel expenses and costs incidental to receiving training.