

County Manager Update

November 6, 2023

10:16 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Brummer, Commissioner Pollock, County Manager Ryan Barrett, Kirsten Wecker, John Abplanalp, Meja Handlen, Lee Napier, Becky Butler, Matt Jaeger, Doug Carey

Guest(s): None

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Public comment: None.

Kirsten Wecker said the county's water-testing facility costs roughly \$176,000. She said rate increases are being made to make the water lab budget neutral.

Kirsten said Chehalis and Centralia are the two largest users of the water lab. Commissioner Brummer asked staff to provide a breakdown of water lab use by Nov. 13.

The group reviewed comparable fees at other counties' labs and at commercial labs.

Commissioner Pollock said she would reach out to Centralia and Chehalis regarding the possibility of fees being increased.

The group discussed the fear of having the county price itself out of the program in an effort to make it budget neutral.

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to add a discussion about food and water inspection fees to the agenda. Commissioner Brummer seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

The group discussed proposed increases to the food and water safety fees to make the program self-sustaining instead of subsidizing costs through the General Fund.

Becky reviewed the 2024 budget process, including a decision-making meeting planned for Nov. 8.

Meeting ended at 10:46 a.m.

