

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR  
MEETING OF THE COMMISSION**

**April 12, 2022**

**1. Call to Order | Pledge of Allegiance**

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Whatcom County was called to order at 8:04 a.m. by Commissioner Christine Grant. Said meeting was open to the public and notice thereof had been given as required by law. Those present in person included Commissioner Mike Murphy, Commissioner Atul Deshmane, and Legal Counsel Jon Sitkin; Staff: Chris Heimgartner, General Manager; and Ann Grimm, Executive Assistant. Those present via Zoom teleconference included Commissioner Christine Grant; Staff attending via Zoom teleconference: Steve Jilk, In-House Consultant; Rebecca Schlotterback, Manager of Contracts and Regulatory Compliance; Annette Smith, Director of Finance; Duane Holden, Director of Utility Operations; Kurt Wank, Project Manager; Aaron Peterson, IT/SCADA Technician; Mike Macomber, IT/SCADA Technician; Andrew Entrikin, Broadband Program Manager; Traci Irvine, Accountant I; and Jon Littlefield, Electric System Supervisor.

Public attending in person:  
Rick Maricle, Citizen  
Max and Carole Perry, Citizens

Public attending via teleconference:  
Jim Darling, Leeward Strategies  
Mike Kaufmann, Citizen  
Scott Wallace, Citizen  
Jack Wellman, PSE  
Dave Olson, Citizen

**2. Approval of Agenda**

*(Recording Time on Video: 00:01:55)*

No changes made.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Deshmane motioned to APPROVE THE AGENDA OF APRIL 12, 2022. Commissioner Murphy second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Consent Agenda**

*(Recording Time on Video: 00:2:32)*

- a. Approval of Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting, March 22, 2022; and
- b. Approval of the Claims of April 12, 2022:

<b>VENDOR NAME</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
APPLIED DIGITAL IMAGING	71.26
BRIDGEVIEW AUTO PARTS	86.97
CABLE HUSTON LLP	19,012.50
CENTRAL WELDING SUPPLY	135.32
CORNERSTONE MANAGEMENT, INC.	4,479.20
DIGITAL BOUNDARY GROUP, INC.	6,450.00
EDGE ANALYTICAL LABORATORIES	29.00
EXACT SCIENTIFIC SERVICES INC.	25.00
GENEVA CONSULTING	2,741.75
HEALTH PROMOTIONS NORTHWEST	150.00
HOLLAND & HART LLP	11,723.00
IVOXY CONSULTING LLC	12,709.60
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	128.11
K ENGINEERS, INC.	270.00
LEEWARD STRATEGIES LLC	4,850.00
LYNDALE GLASS	1,340.12
MINUTEMAN PRESS	4,075.93
MURRAYSMITH	43,489.50
NATIONAL SAFETY, INC.	738.98
NOANET	410.00
NORTHWEST CASCADE, INC.	118.50
NORTHWEST FIBER DBA ZIPLY FIBER	1,372.91
NORTHWEST MOWING & GARDENING	540.76
NP INFORMATION SYSTEMS (3-D CORP)	151.99
PACIFIC SURVEY & ENGINEERING	3,672.50
PLATT ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO	526.65
POTELCO, INC	293,258.12
PUD #1 OF WHATCOM COUNTY	3,631.14
PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC	7,833.29
REGENCE BLUE SHIELD	47,398.24
REISNER DISTRIBUTION, INC	1,492.31
RH2 ENGINEERING, INC	14,657.24

RICOH USA	222.03
SCHOLTEN'S EQUIPMENT INC.	19,414.34
SSC - SANITARY SERVICE COMPANY	554.28
STAR RENTALS	1,705.78
TEAMSTER LOCAL #231	567.00
UNITED WAY OF WHATCOM COUNTY	501.00
UTILITIES UNDERGROUND LOCATION	25.80
VALVOLINE	47.61
VERIZON WIRELESS	2,060.40
WA PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION	100.00
WA ST DEPT OF L&I BOILER	397.60
WA ST DEPT OF RETIREMENT SYS (OASI INVOICE)	25.00
WA ST DEPT TRANSP-NW REGION	446.52
WASHINGTON DENTAL SERVICE	2,953.80
WASHINGTON TEAMSTERS WELFARE	12,775.00
WATERHOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CORP	59,076.00
WHATCOM JANITORIAL	1,325.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$589,767.05</b>

**ACTION:** Commissioner Murphy motioned to APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA OF APRIL 12, 2022. Commissioner Deshmane second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **Public Comment** *(Recording Time on Video: 00:3:03)*  
 Max Perry is glad to have the PUD Commission Meetings return to in-person format.

5. **Old Business**

- a. **Broadband Program Update** *(Recording Time on Video: 00:04:21)*

Heimgartner reported on meeting with the Port each week. The steering committee is now in the process of gathering grant information and what is available for potential funding. Entrikin thinks there will be about \$25-30 million available for grant funding this year. The broadband committee is working on a GIS mapping exercise and has already identified all areas in *100 megabytes download and 20 megabytes upload connection speeds*, and he estimates 4,000 address points that are not receiving this level of service.

- b. **Strategic Plan Initiatives Review** *(Recording Time on Video: 00:33:00)*

Jim Darling of Leeward Strategies continues to work with the Commission to update the District's Strategic Plan. Today's presentation included discussion on updating the Strategic Plan and the goals and strategies associated with it. The next strategic planning discussion will be on June 14 to review goals, strategies and tactics, confirm draft versions of the PUD's mission, values and vision statements, and review the preliminary plan outline.

**ACTION:** Information only. No action taken or requested.

6. **General Manager Report** *(Recording Time on Video: 02:11:36)*

- Met with Blue Wolf and Bonneville Power Administration in Portland. Blue Wolf is seeking the required power from BPA to operate the Intalco facility. Deshmane suggested Blue Wolf contact Energy Northwest;
- In tracking Jon Humphrey's public records request, staff time costs to date are at \$7,100. This does not include legal counsel costs on reviewing the records prior to actual release. One installment has been provided. Legal Counsel indicated it could take up until November to review and release records;
- BPA is beginning negotiations for power purchase contracts set for post 2028;
- WPUDA Lobbying – Grant and Heimgartner discussed WPUDA's lobbying efforts. More information is forthcoming to discuss at an upcoming PUD Commission meeting.

7. **Commissioner Reports** *(Recording Time on Video: 02:19:40)*

Deshmane:

- Will be attending Watershed Management Board meeting later this month;
- He will be attending the upcoming EDI Board meeting;
- Attending WPUDA Committee meetings this week in-person;
- Attended broadband meetings with Entrikin and Heimgartner.

Murphy:

- Met with both Heimgartner and Jilk to discuss water issues and future plans;
- Attended Energy Northwest's class on *uranium 235*;
- Will not be attending the April WPUDA Committee meetings in-person but can attend via Zoom;
- Planning to attend the *Whatcom Farm Expo* on April 23 at the Northwest Washington Fair Grounds "Farming for Life" building.

Grant:

- Is planning to attend the WPUDA Committee meetings in-person later this week.
- Met with Port Commissioner Shepard regarding communications on the joint Port/PUD broadband work; along with discussions with Entrikin;
- Attended training with Jurassic Parliament on Roberts Rules parliamentary procedures;

**8. Public Comment**

(Recording Time on Video: 02:25:50)

Mike Kaufman commented on the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan's *Utility* Chapter 5 and suggested it needs to be updated to include language on internet/broadband, clean energy, jobs, and climate change factors, among others. Kaufman invited anyone who is interested to participate in the discussion should contact him directly.

Dave Olson commented on the adjudication process for the wide range of water users in the county; the PUD needs to take a sterile facilitating approach for PR and liability issues, and risks.

Rick Maricle is glad to be back at in-person meetings. Regarding broadband 'standard' speeds, at his home, the speeds are very sufficient for his family's needs although they do not meet the State's "new" standards. The PUD should keep in mind to not build a system that is far-reaching for what people really need. The emphasis should be on un-served citizens.

Carole Perry is also glad to attend the meeting in-person now; thanked the new General Manager for his new leadership and discussing the progress of Cherry Point.

**9. Executive Session**

(Recording Time on Video: 02:38:00)

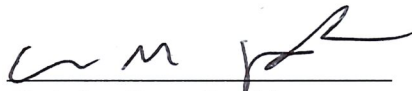
Commission President Grant requested an Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) – potential litigation. The estimated time for Executive Session was 20 minutes. The Commission President indicated no action is anticipated to be taken after the adjournment of Executive Session. Followed by a short recess, the Commission adjourned to Executive Session at 10:45 a.m.

**Executive Session Adjourn**

There being no further business for Executive Session, the Commission rejoined the Regular Commission Meeting webinar platform at 11:20 a.m.

**10. Adjourn**

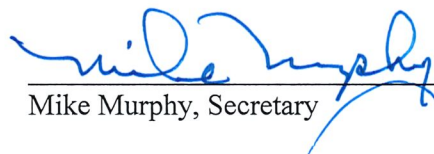
There being no further business for the meeting, Commissioner Grant adjourned the regular meeting at 11:22 a.m.



Christine Grant, President



Atul Deshmane, Vice President



Mike Murphy, Secretary

**Commission Clerk Note:** Video recordings of the Whatcom PUD Commission Meetings are available online at the following link on the PUD's Website: <https://www.pudwhatcom.org/the-commission/2022-agendas-packets-meeting-minutes-recordings/>