

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

March 22, 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 8:00 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 via Zoom teleconference included Commissioner Mike Murphy, Commissioner Christine Grant, Commissioner Atul Deshmane, and Legal Counsel Jon Sitkin. Staff attending via Zoom teleconference: Chris Heimgartner, General Manager; Steve Jilk, In-House Consultant; Ann Grimm, Executive Assistant; Rebecca Schlotterback, Manager of Contracts and Regulatory Compliance; Annette Smith, Director of Finance; Duane Holden, Director of Utility Operations; Kurt Wank, Project Manager; Paul Siegmund, Manager of Automation and Technology; Aaron Peterson, IT/SCADA Technician; Mike Macomber, IT/SCADA Technician; Andrew Entrikin, Broadband Program Manager; and Traci Irvine, Accountant I.

Public attending via teleconference:

Jim Darling, Leeward Strategies	Mike Kaufmann, Citizen
Dave Olson, Citizen	Todd Lagestee, Citizen
Lauren Turner, P66	Rick Maricle, Citizen
Carryn Vande Griend, PSE	Scott Wallace, Citizen

2. Approval of Agenda

(Recording Time on Video: 00:01:40)

No changes made.

ACTION: Commissioner Deshmane motioned to APPROVE THE AGENDA OF MARCH 22, 2022. Commissioner Murphy second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Consent Agenda

(Recording Time on Video: 00:02:15)

Grant had two changes to the Meeting Minutes.

- a. Approval of Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting, March 8, 2022; and
- b. Approval of the Claims of March 22, 2022:

VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT
BIRCH EQUIPMENT COMPANY	688.60
BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION	837,665.00
BRIM TRACTOR COMPANY	1,040.42
CESCO NEW CONCEPT CHEMICAL PRODUCTS	117.81
CHMELIK SITKIN & DAVIS	7,822.50
CNA SURETY	500.00
COMCAST	186.57
COMCAST - NWRC	300.00
CULLIGAN NORTHWEST	187.03
EDGE ANALYTICAL LABORATORIES	22.00
EXACT SCIENTIFIC SERVICES INC.	23.00
FERNDALE ACE HARDWARE	14.68
FLOOR GUY INC, THE	2,600.00
GENEVA CONSULTING	3,812.00
GOODWIN, CHRISTOPHER	272.54
HD FOWLER CO, INC	3,176.96
INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY, INC	20.35
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	18,679.19
KCDA PURCHASING COOPERATIVE	837.41
LYNDEN TRIBUNE	72.00
MASSMUTUAL RETIREMENT SVCS LLC	23,399.98
NATIONAL SAFETY, INC.	90.96
NOOKSACK SALMON ENHANCEMENT ASSOCIATION	20,000.00
NORTHWEST CASCADE, INC.	118.50

P&P EXCAVATING, LLC	14,950.66
PARAMOUNT SUPPLY COMPANY	107.98
PAYLOCITY	171.91
PAYROLL	199,514.28
PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC	617.58
RH2 ENGINEERING, INC	20,624.65
SHERWIN WILLIAMS PAINT	232.82
SPECIAL-T STRIPING & SIGN COMPANY	2,008.56
STEEL RIVER PIPING & FABRICATION	2,002.74
TUPPER MACK WELLS PLLC	8,973.00
WA FEDERAL VISA CARD MEMBER SERVICES	5,235.95
WA ST DEPT OF REVENUE	81,083.27
WA ST DEPT TRANSP-NW REGION	1,263.56
WESTERN CONFERENCE OF TEAMSTERS	8,452.50
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 1,266,886.96

ACTION: Commissioner Murphy motioned to APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA OF MARCH 22, 2022 AS AMENDED. Commissioner Deshmane second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Comment

(Recording Time on Video: 00:03:52)

Todd Lagestee encouraged past PUD budgets be put on the website, strategic goal number 6 - reinvesting profit into the community (re clean and renewable energy), Lummi Island ferry electrification project, and creating a solar farm to assist powering of the re-start of the Alcoa plant.

Rick Maricle commented on Lagestee’s estimates on solar requirements to “power” Alcoa.

Commissioner Murphy suggested wind power as one of the energy alternatives for Alcoa.

5. Old Business

a. Broadband Program Update

(Recording Time on Video: 00:15:49)

Entrikin reported a big win for broadband infrastructure from the state’s legislative session. The following agencies were awarded funding: State Broadband Office - \$50 million; Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) - \$25 million; and the State Public Works Board - \$25 million. Other bills related to broadband passed as well. Grant funding opportunities are beginning to open for applications, partnerships and matching dollars are now being sought to bring projects to unserved areas of the County.

b. Discuss Climate Resilience Policy

(Recording Time on Video: 00:31:25)

Heimgartner suggested the development and draft of this policy should be a part of the upcoming strategic planning process.

6. New Business

a. Approve Amendment to Work Order No. 1 – Wilson Engineering

(Recording Time on Video: 00:36:36)

Jilk requested Commission approval for an amendment to the existing contract with Wilson Engineering to include additional work that was accomplished in order to complete the PUD’s Drinking Water System Plan Update. The amount requested for the amendment is \$7,088.76. This will assure that the money the PUD pays (paid) Wilson follows the Work Order No. 1 as approved by the Commission. All invoices were appropriate and the PUD paid only for the services provided.

ACTION: Commissioner Murphy motioned to APPROVE CONTRACT AMENDMENT NO. 1 WITH WILSON ENGINEERING FOR FINAL COMPLETION OF THE DRINKING WATER SYSTEM PLAN UPDATE IN AN AMOUNT OF \$7,088.76. Commissioner Deshmane second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Strategic Plan Initiatives Review

(Recording Time on Video: 00:41:00)

Jim Darling of Leeward Strategies is working with Commissioners to update the District’s Strategic Plan. Today’s presentation included a more definitive look at the timeline, review of preliminary goals/priorities – needed resources, and the structure and terms of the strategic plan.

ACTION: Information only. No action taken or requested.

7. General Manager Report

(Recording Time on Video: 02:05:16)

- In tracking the current public records request, staff time costs to date are at \$4,100. This does not include legal counsel costs on reviewing the records prior to actual release.
- Met with *Northwest River Partners* regarding a presentation on the Lower Snake River Dams issue.
- Will be working with Goldberg from Port's Economic Development Division as well as Whatcom County government to develop an updated economic development plan/study for the Cherry Point Industrial Zone.
- Update on Blue Wolf's proposal to purchase the Alcoa/Intalco Ferndale plant and Blue Wolf's process on seeking the required power from Bonneville Power Administration to operate the facility.

8. Commissioner Reports

(Recording Time on Video: 02:25:24)

Murphy:

- Met with Heimgartner and Jilk to discuss water issues;
- Attended the WPUDA Committee meetings on Governance and Board of Directors.

Grant:

- Attended Whatcom County Council of Governments meeting;
- Attended WPUDA Committee meetings on Telecom, Energy and Commissioner Roundtable;
- Will attend the WPUDA Committee meetings in-person next month;
- Attended City of Bellingham event on climate.

Deshmane:

- Will meet with the County Executive and Mayor of Bellingham this week;
- Attending Watershed Management Board meeting;
- Attended WPUDA Committee meetings on Water ;
- Attended broadband meetings with Entrikin and Heimgartner.

9. Public Comment

(Recording Time on Video: 02:44:26)

Rick Maricle commented on what was said earlier on solar power for Alcoa and what it would take to replace the 2800 megawatts of thermal power generated in Washington by solar today.

Broadband: the PUD's program should focus on areas that are completely *unserved*.

Strategic Planning process: Maricle said in the pre-COVID days, shareholders (customers and members of the public) were invited to attend and participate in the discussion, not just during public comment periods.

Todd Lagestee commented his calculations on solar power needs is different than that of Maricle's. He suggested tidal power as a consideration, and his thoughts on the meaning of resilience.

Other notes: Jilk indicated today is *World Water Day* – so let's celebrate what we have, what we are trying to accomplish and our engagement within the community.

Next Commission Meeting April 12: Will be a combination of in-person at the PUD's conference room and Zoom.

10. Adjourn

There being no further business for the meeting, Commissioner Grant adjourned the regular meeting at 10:51 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/>