

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

**June 28, 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 in person included Commissioner Christine Grant, Commissioner Atul Deshmane and Commissioner Mike Murphy; Legal Counsel Jon Sitkin; Staff: Brian Walters, Assistant General Manager; Steve Jilk, In-House Consultant and Andrew Entrikin, Broadband Program Manager. Staff attending via Zoom: Ann Grimm, Executive; Assistant Rebecca Schlotterback, Manager of Contracts and Regulatory Compliance; Annette Smith, Director of Finance; Paul Siegmund, Manager of Automation and Technology; Aaron Peterson, IT/SCADA Technician; Mike Macomber, IT/SCADA Technician; Traci Irvine, Accountant I; Devin Crabtree, Chief Water Operator; Kurt Wank, Project Manager; and Jon Littlefield, Electric System Supervisor.

Public attending via Zoom platform:	Public attending in-person
Jamie Douglass, Citizen	Robin Dexter, Citizen
Dave Olson, Water Systems, Inc.	Rick Maricle, Citizen
Jack Wellman, Puget Sound Energy	Lauren Turner, Phillips 66
Kaylee Galloway, Whatcom Cty Council	
Kris K., Citizen	
Debbie Ahl, Citizen	

**2. Approval of Agenda**

*(Recording Time on Video: 01:02:02)*

Sitkin requested that Item # 6b, Approval of Resolution #808-A, Amendment to Delegation of Authority be tabled until the next regular commission meeting.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Deshmane motioned to AMEND AND APPROVE THE AGENDA OF JUNE 28, 2022. Commissioner Murphy second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Consent Agenda**

*(Recording Time on Video 02:56:00)*

Commissioner Grant noted two corrections for the Minutes of June 14, regarding Work Order #001-06-22 and Resolution No. 817.

- a. Approval of Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting, June 14, 2022; and
- b. Approval of the Claims of June 28, 2022:

<u>VENDOR NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION	767,599.00
BRIM TRACTOR COMPANY	164.51
CDW/COMPUTER DISCOUNT WAREHOUSE	6,707.68
CENTRAL WELDING SUPPLY	89.35
CESCO NEW CONCEPT CHEMICAL PRODUCTS	123.81
CHMELIK SITKIN & DAVIS	26,362.15
COMCAST	186.57
COMCAST - NWRC	300.00
EDGE ANALYTICAL LABORATORIES	22.00
FEDERAL EXPRESS	14.76
FERNDALE ACE HARDWARE	18.49
GENEVA CONSULTING	4,587.50
HACH COMPANY	103.65
HD FOWLER CO, INC	43.52
HOLLAND & HART LLP	19,483.50
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	19,425.92
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	104.46
KCDA PURCHASING COOPERATIVE	183.64
MASSMUTUAL RETIREMENT SVCS LLC	12,383.33
MURRAYSMITH	55,163.00
NORTH COAST ELECTRIC COMPANY	1,834.18
P&P EXCAVATING, LLC	3,618.11
PACIFIC SURVEY & ENGINEERING	108.75
PARAMOUNT SUPPLY COMPANY	482.20
PAYLOCITY	202.93
PAYROLL	210,879.77
PLATT ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO	200.63
PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC	71.35
RH2 ENGINEERING, INC	18,886.40
STAR RENTALS	1,705.78
TUPPER MACK WELLS PLLC	12,060.00

WA FEDERAL VISA CARD MEMBER SERVICES	4,049.56
WA PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION	75.00
WA ST DEPT OF REVENUE	77,086.20
WA ST DEPT TRANSP-NW REGION	177.09
WATERHOUSE ENVIRO SERVICES CORP	29,875.50
WESTERN CONFERENCE OF TEAMSTERS	9,394.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,283,774.29</b>

**ACTION:** Commissioner Murphy motioned to APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA OF JUNE 28, 2022, AS AMENDED. Commissioner Deshmane second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- 4. Public Comment** *(Recording Time on Video: 03:08)*  
No comments made.

- 5. Water Resources Presentation** *(Recording Time on Video: 03:53)*  
Steve Jilk, Rebecca Schlotterback, Becky Peterson (Geneva Consulting) and Dave Olson (Water System Services) presented an overview of the PUD’s water systems and water resources program. Topics included the PUD’s water systems and core services, partnerships and stakeholders, WRIA 1 Watershed Management Project, technical support programs for non-PUD owned drinking water systems, support for the agriculture community, PUD water rights preservation/protection, climate change/resiliency/mitigation and next steps for PUD water resources.

**ACTION:** NO action requested of or taken. Information only.

**NOTE:** Following the Water Resources Presentation, the Commission recessed for five minutes.

- 6. Old Business** *(Recording Time on Video: 2:26:30)*

**a. Broadband Program Update**

- The notice of funding/grant opportunities (\$20 million estimated for Whatcom County) from the Washington State Broadband Office has been delayed, it may be another few weeks before full information is received. The Port/PUD grant project information is ready to go (as fiber to the premise) as soon as funding information is released.
- The County is very supportive of wireless fiber for Point Roberts and has asked Entrikin and Heimgartner to assist with a Request for Proposals.
- Next Steps Scenario for LUDs and the broadband program will be presented at the next regular meeting.

**b. Approve Resolution No. 808-A**  
Item tabled.

- c. Approve Contract for Steve Jilk** *(Recording Time on Video: 02:39:52)*  
Jilk’s current contract ends on June 30, 2022. Sitkin indicated the new agreement affords for Jilk to be retained as an in-house, part-time employee and other provisions.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Deshmane motioned to APPROVE EMPLOYEE CONTRACT WITH STEVE JILK. Commissioner Murphy second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- d. Call for Special Meeting – Confirm Date and Time** *(Recording Time on Video: 02:41:27)*  
Commissioners confirmed the date/time of **July 5, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.**, to review the update for the District’s Strategic Plan. The meeting will be held at the District office in-person, and remote attendance option via the Zoom platform.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Deshmane motioned to SET THE TIME AND DATE FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING: JULY 5, 2022, AT 9:00 AM. Commissioner Murphy second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- 7. New Business** *(Recording Time on Video: 02:43:50)*

**a. Approve Work Order No. 1 with FCS Group for Utility Rate Study**

Smith said the amount budgeted for the Work Order was \$70,000 and amount proposed by FCS is just over at \$70,760.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Deshmane motioned to APPROVE WORK ORDER #1 WITH FCS GROUP FOR A UTILITY RATE STUDY OF THE INDUSTRIAL WATER AND GRANDVIEW WATER SYSTEMS WITH A BUDGET NOT TO EXCEED OF \$70,760 AND AUTHORIZE THE PUD’S GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE WORK ORDER. Commissioner Murphy second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- 8. General Manager Report** *(Recording Time on Video: 02:45:09)*  
No report. Walters filled in for Heimgartner’s absence.

**9. Commissioner Reports**

*(Recording Time on Video: 02:45:54)*

Murphy:

- Was unable to make the last meeting due to family illness.

Deshmane:

- Commented there is more work to do on broadband and priorities should be decided in order to support the next stages; he believes the PUD does not have a handle on what the needs are of the un-underserved, or poorly served.

Grant:

- Working with Jim Darling to prepare for Strategic Plan update meeting and will be touring Phillips 66 later today.
- Eager to see the business plan concept from NoaNet related to broadband retail authority, developing the right programs and policies are appropriate.

**10. Public Comment**

*(Recording Time on Video: 02:50:30)*

Kris K – Two comments: first, that fiber is good for 15-30 years without maintenance, while 5G radios will be suffering weather/outages/losses within 5 years; and with the NTIA/federal/county, etc. funds the main way that the PUD plans to overcome last mile costs without putting the burden on renters and homeowners – in terms of being more relevant for homes that are in rural areas with a mile or ¼ mile run for expensive installation costs. Will the costs be put on homeowners/renters? EntriKin replied that the PUD is in a support role to the Port with data, GIS mapping and the like. The funding is for fiber infrastructure to the premises (home).

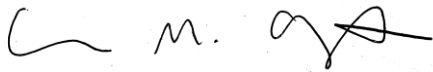
Jamie Douglass thanked Commissioners and staff for the June 14 Open House and the information provided from Kitsap PUD regarding Local Utility District (LUD) funding, and he stresses the importance between a public/private relationship for fiber and internet service providers.

Eric Alm, unable to comment verbally, wrote in the chat comments that he agreed with what Jamie Douglass said.

**11. Adjourn**

*(Recording Time on Video: 3:02:00)*

There being no further business for the regular meeting, Commissioner Grant adjourned the regular meeting at 11:02 a.m.



Christine Grant, President/Commissioner



Atul Deshmane, Vice President/Commissioner



Mike Murphy, Secretary/Commissioner

**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/>