

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

May 9, 2023

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 8:15 a.m. by Commissioner Atul Deshmane. Said meeting was open to the public and notice thereof had been given as required by law. Those present included: Commissioner Christine Grant, Commissioner Jaime Arnett; Commissioner Atul Deshmane; and Legal Counsel Jon Sitkin. Staff: Chris Heimgartner, General Manager; Assistant General Manager Brian Walters; Ann Grimm, Executive Assistant; Andrew Entrikin, Broadband Program Manager; Steve Jilk, In-House Consultant; Rebecca Schlotterback, Manager of Contracts and Regulatory Compliance; Aaron Peterson, IT/SCADA Technician; Mike Macomber, IT/SCADA Technician; Traci Irvine, Accountant I; Paul Siegmund, Manager of Automation and Technology; and Kurt Wank, Director of Utility Operations.

Public attending:
Dave Olson, citizen
Jack Wellman, PSE
Lauren Turner, P66

2. Approval of Agenda

No changes made.

ACTION: Commissioner Grant made the motion to APPROVE THE AGENDA OF May 9, 2023. Commissioner Arnett second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

- a) Approval of Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting, April 25, 2023;
- b) Approval of the Claims of May 9, 2023:

VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT
ARG INDUSTRIAL (formerly INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY)	1,059.44
BELLINGHAM HERALD	180.00
BRIDGEVIEW AUTO PARTS	280.73
BRIM TRACTOR COMPANY	106.62
CAZ ENVIRONMENTAL LLC	213.20
CORNERSTONE MANAGEMENT, INC.	1,582.00
EDGE ANALYTICAL LABORATORIES	24.00
ESRI	2,508.66
EXACT SCIENTIFIC SERVICES INC.	27.00
FCS GROUP	12,121.25
FERNDALE ACE HARDWARE	21.72
FERNDALE CITY OF	263.42
FRONTIER PRECISION, INC.	2,604.90
GATEWAY CONTROLS	1,964.57
GDS ASSOCIATES (EES CONSULTING)	1,870.00
GUARDIAN SECURITY SYSTEMS, INC	93.18
HACH COMPANY	366.22
HARDWARE SALES, INC	44.05
HEALTH PROMOTIONS NORTHWEST	150.00
LFS, INC.	1,079.30
NORTHWEST CASCADE, INC.	118.50
NORTHWEST FIBER DBA ZIPLY FIBER	1,433.79
NP INFORMATION SYSTEMS (3-D CORP)	252.42
P&P EXCAVATING, LLC	2,492.50
PLATT ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO	3,508.92
PUBLIC UTILITY RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES	9,627.05
PUD #1 OF WHATCOM COUNTY	1,863.78
PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC	8,196.58
RDS - RECYCLING & DISPOSAL SERVICE	15.45
REGENCE BLUE SHIELD	45,798.72
REISNER DISTRIBUTION, INC	1,304.43
RICOH USA	243.58
ROHLINGER ENTERPRISES	2,440.70
SCHOLTEN'S EQUIPMENT INC.	136.09
SMITH MECHANICAL	6,986.26
SSC - SANITARY SERVICE COMPANY	615.43
TEAMSTER LOCAL #231	616.00

UNITED WAY OF WHATCOM COUNTY	742.00
UTILITIES UNDERGROUND LOCATION	3.87
VALVOLINE	207.45
WA PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION	150.00
WASHINGTON DENTAL SERVICE	2,860.50
WASHINGTON TEAMSTERS WELFARE	13,273.40
WHATCOM FARMERS CO-OP	494.36
WHATCOM JANITORIAL	1,617.66
GRAND TOTAL	\$131,559.70

ACTION: Commissioner Grant made the motion to APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA OF MAY 9, 2023. Commissioner Arnett second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Comment - No comments.

5. Old Business

a) Broadband Program Update

- Commissioner Grant and others met with staff from Senator Cantwell’s office.
- Zippy Fiber is progressing ahead in the areas slated for *rural digital opportunity fund* (RDOF); there have been some difficulties with pole attachments near Glacier.
- Good news from the Washington State Broadband Office – the grant application to help fund fiber infrastructure at Point Roberts will be awarded to the PUD in the amount of \$3.15 million.

b) Adjudication Update

Whatcom Superior Court will be overseeing the adjudication process; however, Whatcom County has four Superior Court judges and not five, funding will have to go towards utilizing a Court Commissioner instead. Court proceedings, negotiations, and other details still need to be worked out.

c) Call for Special Meeting

Commissioners called for a special meeting to discuss social media plans for the District. Proper noticing and agenda will be forthcoming. The meeting is expected to last two hours and will be a hybrid (Zoom and in-person) meeting as Sitkin will attend remotely.

ACTION: Commissioner Arnett made the motion to CALL FOR A SPECIAL MEETING ON TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023 AT 3:00 PM, LOCATED AT THE DISTRICT’S ADMINISTRATION OFFICE. Commissioner Grant second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. New Business

a) Post 2028: Bonneville Power Administration Power Contract Briefing

Assistant General Manager Walters provided a background and overview of the upcoming power contract negotiations for the District. The presentation included 1) a history of BPA power contracts; 2) Comparison of the current “regional dialog” contract to BPA’s policy proposal for the “Provider of Choice” Post 2028 Contract; 3) Highlights of issues surrounding the post 2028 contract policy framework; and 4) Next steps in the power contract development process.

ACTION: No action taken. Information only.

7. General Manager Report

- Heimgartner will be attending WPUDA’s Telecom Committee and General Managers meetings in Spokane this week.

8. Operations Report

- Walters said a contract recently approved with a cyber security firm to help keep the District’s networks and information management systems secure. Cyber-attacks including phishing attempts have been escalating and artificial intelligence (AI) schemes are on the rise.
- Walters updated Commissioners on the terms of the Alcoa Industrial Water Contract.

9. Commissioner Reports

Arnett:

- WPUDA mentor, Debra Lester from Kitsap PUD, will be visiting with her on Friday.
- Inquired about a second electric expansion feasibility meeting in Bellingham to be included at the next regular meeting’s agenda.

Grant:

- Attended Energy Northwest meetings in Richland this week.
- Will be on vacation for the June 13 meeting.
- Plans to attend the WRIA-1 Environmental Caucus meeting.

Deshmane:

- Plans to attend the Lummi First Salmon Ceremony on May 18 – all Commissioners were invited.
- Attended the Public Power Council meeting and discussed transmission issues with BPA.

10. Public Comment - None made.

11. Executive Session

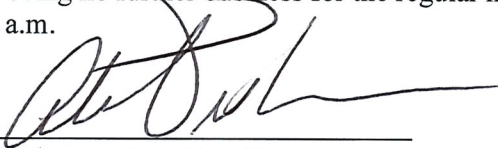
Commission President Deshmane requested an Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g): To review the qualifications and/or performance of a public employee (50 min.); and RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) Potential Litigation – Water Rights Adjudication (10 min.) Estimated time for Executive Session was sixty (60) minutes. The Commission President indicated no action is anticipated to be taken after the adjournment of Executive Session. After a short recess, the Commission adjourned to Executive Session at 10:25 a.m.

Executive Session Adjourn

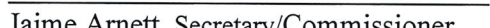
There being no further business for Executive Session, the Commission rejoined the Regular Commission Meeting at 11:12 a.m.

12. Adjourn

There being no further business for the regular meeting, Deshmane adjourned the regular meeting at 11:14 a.m.



Atul Deshmane, President/Commissioner

Christine Grant, Vice President/Commissioner

Jaime Arnett, 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/2023-agendas-packets-meeting-minutes-recordings/>

