

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

April 23, 2024

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 Jaime Arnett. Said meeting was open to the public and notice thereof had been given as required by law. Those present included: Commissioner Atul Deshmane, Commissioner Christine Grant, Commissioner Jaime Arnett and Legal Counsel Jon Sitkin. Staff: General Manager Chris Heimgartner; Andrew Entrikin, Broadband Program Manager; Rebecca Schlotterback, Manager of Contracts and Regulatory Compliance; Mike Macomber, IT/SCADA Technician; Garrett Love-Smith, Project Manager; Kurt Wank, Director of Utility Operations; and Annette Smith, Director of Finance; Stephanie Hooper, Accountant I; Devin Crabtree, Chief Water Operator; and Jon Littlefield, Electric System Supervisor.

Public attending:

Rick Maricle	Eddy Ury
Mike Murphy	Tyler McDevitt
Todd Lagestee	Jack Wellman

2. Approval of Agenda

Addition of a second Executive Session for evaluation of candidates.

ACTION: Commissioner Grant made the motion to APPROVE THE AGENDA OF APRIL 23, 2024 AS AMENDED. Commissioner Deshmane second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

a) Approval of Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 9, 2024;

b) Approval of the Claims of April 23, 2024:

VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT
APPLIED DIGITAL IMAGING	6.54
INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY, INC	156.65
BHAM TECH COLLEGE	2,890.00
BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION	595,324.00
BRIM TRACTOR COMPANY	451.15
CESCO NEW CONCEPT CHEMICAL PRODUCTS	117.39
CIVIC GROUP	5,000.00
COMCAST	194.91
COMCAST - NWRC	300.00
CONSOR NORTH AMERICA, INC.	117,472.25
CULLIGAN NORTHWEST	285.43
DESHMANE, ATUL	140.96
EDGE ANALYTICAL LABORATORIES	91.00
FERNDALE ACE HARDWARE	55.65
FERNDALE AUTO PARTS	146.49
GATEWAY CONTROLS	716.67
HARDWARE SALES, INC	49.01
HEALTH PROMOTIONS NORTHWEST	150.00
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	22,645.42
KCDA PURCHASING COOPERATIVE	701.90
LITHTEX NW LLC	112.94
MASSMUTUAL RETIREMENT SVCS LLC	12,440.00
NORTHWEST CASCADE, INC.	173.43
P&P EXCAVATING, LLC	4,345.47
PAYLOCITY	183.16
PAYROLL	243,841.58
PLATT ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO	123.73
PUBLIC UTILITY RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES	55,916.09
PUD #1 OF WHATCOM COUNTY	1,676.99
PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC	1,629.40
RH2 ENGINEERING, INC	1,301.49
SMITH MECHANICAL	2,247.48
STAR RENTALS	1,708.88
TOTH AND ASSOCIATES, INC	5,312.50
TUPPER MACK WELLS PLLC	10,302.50
VALVOLINE	102.63
WA FEDERAL VISA CARD MEMBER SERVICES	3,766.91

WA PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION	75.00
WA ST DEPT OF RETIREMENT SYSTEMS	25.00
WA ST DEPT OF REVENUE - EXCISE TAX	79,735.50
WA ST DEPT OF REVENUE - LEASEHOLD TAX	707.10
WESTERN CONFERENCE OF TEAMSTERS	8,760.50
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,181,383.70

ACTION: Commissioner Grant made the motion to APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA OF APRIL 23, 2024. Commissioner Deshmane second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioners discussed their per diem expenses and have now requested that it is more detailed than what is listed in the Meeting Minutes.

4. **Public Comment** – None made.

5. **General Manager’s Report**

The outcome of the retreat was discussed. The next step is to meet to discuss strategy. Arnett said she is looking forward to holding ‘work sessions’ and holding meetings in different locations of the county. Heimgartner plans to hold a meeting in June regarding power markets.

6. **Old Business**

a) **Broadband Program Update**

Entrikin provided an update on Point Roberts, the State Broadband Office’s Challenge Process, and more was discussed. The telecom workshop proposed for May 17 will be postponed until further notice.

b) **Adjudication Update**

Sitkin provided an update on the process and noted the first postcard was recently mailed out to water rights holders.

c) **Geothermal Update**

Heimgartner and Entrikin met with the Nooksack Tribe to discuss next steps with geothermal feasibility studies.

7. **New Business**

a) **Discussion and Possible Action: Nomination of Interim Commissioner**

Sitkin discussed the process for the appointment/nomination of candidates for the vacant commission seat. Sitkin recommended the Commission adopt one of two schedules he presented.

ACTION: Commissioner Deshmane made the motion, based on the accelerated schedule, to hold a Special Commission Meeting on May 2, 2024 via Zoom platform. Commissioner Grant second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Note: The time, meeting agenda and notice is forthcoming.

8. **Reassignment of Board Representatives to Agencies**

Commissioner Arnett suggested for the committees which Grant is a primary representative, that the alternate Commissioner will fill those board vacancies, and the other Commissioner will become the alternate. No action was requested or taken.

9. **Operations Report**

Walters reported that the crew is ramping up for summer maintenance activities. Water supply’s impact on hydro operations is shaping up to be a different year than last, snowpack is way below normal ranges for this time of year.

10. **Commissioner Reports**

Deshmane:

- Discussed water banking in Whatcom County;
- Plans to attend a meeting next Monday regarding clean energy. Commissioners agreed on a per diem for this.
- Plans to meet with the Mayor of Bellingham.
- Did not attend the WPUA annual conference.

Grant:

- Will attend the Energy Northwest Board of Directors meeting this week. She will send a follow up email to Heimgartner on the details.

Arnett:

- WRIA1 continues to be a disappointment. Meetings are being cancelled. She is interested to see if there are bylaws for the board. Heimgartner responded that there really is no update and the reasoning behind not holding meetings.

11. Public Comment

Todd Lagestee commented on electric vehicle charging outlets and costs.

12. Executive Session

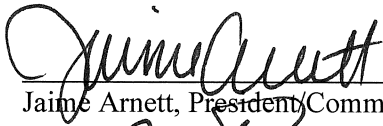
Commissioner Arnett requested an Executive Session to discuss potential litigation regarding water rights adjudication and discuss potential candidates. Estimated time was 20 minutes; adjournment time for Executive Session at 10:30 a.m. No action is anticipated after Executive Session. After a short recess, the Commission adjourned to Executive Session at 10:05 a.m.

Executive Session Adjourn

There being no further business for Executive Session, the Commission rejoined the Regular Commission Meeting at 10:27 a.m.

13. Adjourn

There being no further business for the regular meeting, Commissioner Arnett adjourned the regular meeting at 10:30 a.m.



Jaime Arnett, President/Commissioner



Atul Deshmant, Vice President/Commissioner

Christine Grant, 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/2024-agenda-packets-meeting-minutes-recordings/>