

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR
MEETING OF THE COMMISSION
January 14, 2025**

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 at the meeting included:

COMMISSION AND STAFF

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Atul Deshmane | Commissioner |
| Jaime Arnett | Commissioner |
| Eddy Ury | Commissioner |
| Jon Sitkin | Legal Counsel |
| Chris Heimgartner | General Manager |
| Aaron Peterson | IT/SCADA Technician |
| Andrew Entrikin | Director – Broadband and New Power Supply |
| Annette Smith | Director of Finance |
| Brian Walters | Assistant General Manager |
| Devin Crabtree | Chief Water Operator |
| Garrett Love-Smith | Engineering Manager |
| Jon Littlefield | Electric System Supervisor |
| Joseph Shay | Clerk of the Board / Records |
| Kurt Wank | Assistant General Manager |
| Lisa Moeller | Director – HR & Communications |
| Mike Macomber | IT/SCADA Technician |
| Paul Siegmund | Automation and Technology Manager |
| Rebecca Schlotterback | Contracts and Regulatory Compliance Manager |
| Stephanie Hooper | Accountant I |

VISITORS

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| Cynthia Weed | K&L Gates LLP |
| Scott Bauer | Northwest Municipal Advisors |
| Todd Lagestee | Citizen |
| David Roberts | Maul Foster Alongi |
| Andrea Doyle | AltaGas |
| Dave Olson | Citizen |

2. Approval of Agenda

ACTION:

Commissioner Ury made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Deshmane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

a) Approval of the Minutes of Regular Commission Meeting of December 17, 2024 & Approval of the Claims of January 14, 2025:

Commissioner Ury made a motion to approve the consent agenda as a whole including both the minutes and the claims. Commissioner Deshmane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Claims of January 14, 2025:

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| ANVIL CORPORATION | 7,765.00 |
| INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY, INC | 205.40 |
| ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON CITIES | 500.00 |
| AT&T MOBILITY | 1,835.92 |

| | |
|---|------------|
| BRANOM EQUIPMENT | 633.97 |
| BROWN, KATHERINE | 528.34 |
| CDW/COMPUTER DISCOUNT WAREHOUSE | 4,926.96 |
| CENTRAL WELDING SUPPLY | 3,003.30 |
| CHMELIK SITKIN & DAVIS | 9,345.00 |
| CNA SURETY | 399.26 |
| COBB, FENDLEY & ASSOCIATES, INC | 4,745.18 |
| CONNER, ERIC | 130.99 |
| CONSOR NORTH AMERICA, INC. | 239,936.75 |
| CORNERSTONE MANAGEMENT, INC. | 1,201.50 |
| CRINA HOYER CONSULTING | 1,072.50 |
| CRITICAL INSIGHT INC | 14,982.12 |
| CULLIGAN NORTHWEST | 422.17 |
| EDGE ANALYTICAL LABORATORIES | 25.00 |
| EMERSON LLLP | 1,132.61 |
| ENTRIKIN, ANDREW | 4,944.56 |
| EXACT SCIENTIFIC SERVICES INC. | 30.00 |
| FERNDALE ACE HARDWARE | 48.11 |
| FERNDALE AUTO PARTS | 107.92 |
| FERNDALE CITY OF | 295.97 |
| FOSTER GARVEY PC | 16,240.00 |
| GATEWAY CONTROLS | 2,377.00 |
| HACH COMPANY | 266.62 |
| HARDWARE SALES, INC . | 795.79 |
| HEALTH PROMOTIONS NORTHWEST | 150.00 |
| HOOPER, STEPHANIE | 68.36 |
| HYDRAULIC SUPPLY COMPANY | 281.39 |
| INSIGHT PUBLIC SECTOR, INC. | 1,053.02 |
| IVOXY CONSULTING LLC | 44,993.14 |
| LAGESTEE, TODD | 200.45 |
| LITHTEX NW LLC | 1,663.57 |
| MINMAX | 3,000.00 |
| MULTIQUIP INC | 375.40 |
| NEL/SON DISTRIBUTING DBA NELSON-REISNER | 1,154.46 |
| NORTH COAST ELECTRIC COMPANY | 1,096.76 |
| NORTHWEST FIBER DBA ZIPLY FIBER | 855.82 |
| NW PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION | 6,574.79 |
| ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LLC | 379.34 |
| P&P EXCAVATING, LLC | 1,871.36 |
| PACIFIC NORTHWEST UTILITIES | 1,000.00 |
| PLATT ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO | 940.52 |
| PORTAL WAY FARM & GARDEN | 238.71 |
| PROSCAPES | 565.76 |
| PUBLIC POWER COUNCIL | 4,308.00 |
| PUBLIC UTILITY RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES | 71,708.26 |
| PUD #1 OF WHATCOM COUNTY | 512.69 |
| PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC | 4,205.84 |
| REGENCE BLUE SHIELD | 45,490.77 |
| RICOH USA | 209.49 |
| SMITH MECHANICAL | 7,484.56 |
| SSC - SANITARY SERVICE COMPANY | 643.11 |
| STAR RENTALS | 1,708.88 |
| STERICYCLE ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS | 59.80 |
| TEAMSTER LOCAL #231 | 699.00 |
| ULINE, INC. | 683.36 |
| UNITED WAY OF WHATCOM COUNTY | 570.00 |
| UTILITIES UNDERGROUND LOCATION | 9.24 |

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| VALVOLINE | 364.29 |
| WA PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION | 370.00 |
| WASHINGTON DENTAL SERVICE | 2,869.80 |
| WASHINGTON TEAMSTERS WELFARE | 16,048.80 |
| WESTSIDE LUMBER | 1,201.53 |
| WHATCOM JANITORIAL | 1,430.00 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$ 544,938.21 |

4. Public Comment – None

5. TEFRA Public Hearing Regarding Sale of Limited Tax General Obligation and Refunding Bonds – The General manager reminded the commission of the history leading up to the bond resolution then introduced Annette Smith, Director of Finance to present the issue. The director of finance introduced Cynthia Weed of K&L Gates LLP and Scott Bauer of Northwest Municipal Advisers who were present at the meeting to discuss Resolution 867 approving the issuance of bonds for the reconstruction of Water Plant 1. Mr. Bauer presented information about the bond issue to the commission and following his presentation the commission opened the floor to public comment. Todd Lagestee asked if the PUD’s outstanding bonds from 2013 could be refinanced as part of the new bond issuance. Mr. Lagestee also noted that this bond opportunity could have been a time to engage the public more readily and that the Commission and Staff should look to do that when more often when opportunities like this issue arise. The general manager informed Mr. Lagestee that the incorporating of the outstanding bonds is under consideration but only if doing so would create cost savings for the PUD. The commissioners had a thorough discussion with Ms. Weed and Mr. Bauer regarding the details of the bond issuance.

5a). Resolution No. 867 A Resolution Of The Commission Of Public Utility District No. 1 Of Whatcom County, Washington, Providing For The Issuance And Sale Of One Or More Series Of Limited Tax General Obligation And Refunding Bonds Of The District In The Aggregate Principal Amount Of Not To Exceed \$78,200,000, For The Purposes Of Providing Funds For Certain Acquisitions And Improvements To District Facilities And Refunding Certain Outstanding Limited Tax General Obligation Bonds Of The District; Authorizing A Designated District Representative To Approve Final Terms And Conditions And The Sale Of The Bonds, Execution Of All Documents And Actions Necessary To Sell And Deliver The Bonds, And Preparation And Dissemination Of A Preliminary Official Statement And Final Official Statement; And Providing For Continuing Disclosure – Commissioner Deshmane made a motion to approve Resolution No. 867. Commissioner Ury seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

5b). Based on discussion regarding the bond hearing Commissioner Deshmane made a motion that before June 30, 2025 staff have a plan in place to schedule an “Open House” event and invite the public to review the PUD’s Capital Improvement Plan. Commissioner Arnett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Commission Recess: The meeting was recessed from 9:46 to 9:50 AM for a short recess.

6. General Manager’s Report – General Manager Heimgartner reported that the PUD had received a thank you card from PUD 3 of Mason County thanking Whatcom PUD for the approval of the transfer of Bonneville funds to Mason PUD at a previous meeting. The general manager also reported that AltaGas will be hosting the next community benefits advisory committee meeting and using our commission room for the meeting.

7. Operations Report – Kurt Wank, Assistant General Manager reported that a hiring listing for a new staff position of Project Manager has been posted. He also reported that workers are out working on the Plant 2 turbidity vault project.

8. Old Business

a) Broadband Update – Andrew Entrikin, Director of Broadband and New Power Supply, gave a presentation to the commission updating them on the changes in the BEAD Grant application process and how the PUD is adapting to those changes.

b) Adjudication Update – No update at this time.

c) Geothermal Update – No update at this time.

d) **Strategic Plan Update** – The commission gave the General Manager approval to enter into an agreement with Maul Foster Alongi to provide consulting services to the commission for the updating of the strategic plan.

9. New Business

10. Commission Reports/Per Diem Requests:

a) **Board Reorganization:** The commission agreed to reorganize the board leadership for the year 2025 as follows:

President: Atul Deshmane
 Vice President: Jaime Arnett
 Secretary: Eddy Ury

b) **Assignment of District Representatives to Membership Organizations:** Each year the Commission acts to approve Commission and staff representatives to organizations of which the District is a member. The following organizations will be represented by the commissioners listed:

Washington Public Utility Districts Association: WPUA Committees and District designees:

| Committee | <i>Primary Representative</i> | <i>Alternate</i> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Board of Directors | Jaime Arnett | Eddy Ury |
| Managers Committee | Chris Heimgartner | Kurt Wank |
| Government Relations Committee | Jaime Arnett | Eddy Ury |
| Communications Committee | Jaime Arnett | Chris Heimgartner |
| Energy Committee | Eddy Ury | Atul Deshmane |
| Water Committee | Atul Deshmane | Eddy Ury |
| Telecom Committee | Atul Deshmane | Andrew Entrikin |

Whatcom County Economic Development Investment Board:

Delegate: Atul Deshmane
 Alternate: Eddy Ury

Whatcom County Council of Governments (WCCOG):

Delegate: Eddy Ury
 Alternate: Atul Deshmane

Public Utility Risk Management Services (PURMS): This is the District’s insurance pool coalition. We are required to have a District designated “voting” representative.

Voting Representative: Atul Deshmane
 Alternate(s): Annette Smith

Watershed Resource Inventory Area No. 1 (WRIA1) – Appoint WRIA 1 Watershed Management Board Representative and alternate; and appoint WRIA 1 Planning Unit representative and alternate. Current representatives:

| WRIA 1 | <i>Primary Representative</i> | <i>Alternate</i> |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Watershed Mgmt. Board | Jaime Arnett | Chris Heimgartner |
| Planning Unit | Chris Heimgartner | Rebecca Schlotterback |

Energy Northwest:

Energy Northwest Representative: Eddy Ury
 Alternate: Atul Deshmane

b) **Commission Reports / Per Diem Requests:**

Omitted due to lack of time.

11. Public Comment – No public comment.

12. Executive Session

Executive Session: The Commission recessed the meeting at 10:45 am for a brief executive session to discuss labor relations. The Commission reopened the meeting at 10:58 AM.

13. Resolution No. 870 A Resolution Of The Board Of Commissioners Of The Whatcom County Public Utility District No. 1 Directing The General Manager To Authorize A Labor Agreement With General Teamsters Union Local 231 – Commissioner Deshmane made a motion to approve Resolution No. 870. Commissioner Ury seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Adjourn

There being no further business Commissioner Arnett adjourned the meeting at 10:59 a.m.



Atul Deshmane, President/Commissioner



Jaime Arnett, Vice President/Commissioner



Eddy Ury, 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/agenda-packets-meeting-minutes-recordings/>

