

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR
MEETING OF THE COMMISSION
January 28, 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 Atul Deshmane. 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
Garrett Love-Smith	Engineering Manager
Joseph Shay	Clerk of the Board / Records
Kurt Wank	Assistant General Manager
Lisa Moeller	Director – HR & Communications
Mike Macomber	IT/SCADA Technician
Rebecca Schlotterback	Contracts and Regulatory Compliance Manager
Stephanie Hooper	Accountant I

VISITORS

Todd Lagestee	Citizen
James Van Der Voort	Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association
Dave Olson	Citizen

2. Approval of Agenda

ACTION:

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

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

a) Approval of the Minutes of Regular Commission Meeting of January 14, 2025 & Approval of the Claims of January 28, 2025:

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

Claims of January 14, 2025:

ALUMICHEM CANADA INC (formerly WATERHOUSE ENV.)	31,467.20
ANVIL CORPORATION	1,365.00
APPLIED INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC	32.81
INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY, INC	51.06
BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION	683,330.00
BRIM TRACTOR COMPANY	351.81
CENTRAL WELDING SUPPLY	105.53
CHMELIK SITKIN & DAVIS	7,838.00
CLEAN EARTH INC.	101.63
COMCAST	322.09

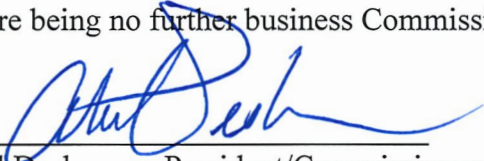
COMCAST - NWRC	300.00
CONSOR NORTH AMERICA, INC.	24,027.20
EAGLE-EYE POWER SOLUTIONS LLC	2,622.50
FERNDALE ACE HARDWARE	89.34
FERNDALE AUTO PARTS	106.74
HARDWARE SALES, INC .	111.74
HD FOWLER CO, INC	4,139.60
HESS, DEVIN	816.26
INSIGHT PUBLIC SECTOR, INC.	3,356.50
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	26,781.01
IVOXY CONSULTING LLC	4,788.35
MASSMUTUAL RETIREMENT SVCS LLC	13,160.00
NORTH COAST ELECTRIC COMPANY	548.38
NORTHWEST CASCADE, INC.	165.50
ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LLC	626.44
P&P EXCAVATING, LLC	1,871.36
PAYLOCITY	189.64
PAYROLL	287,914.43
PERRY PALLET	20.00
PLATT ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO	547.32
PUD #1 OF WHATCOM COUNTY	17,194.44
PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC	1,072.37
SIEGMUND, PAUL M	183.88
STAR RENTALS	3,302.88
ULINE, INC.	1,632.54
WA FEDERAL VISA CARD MEMBER SERVICES	4,561.59
WA PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION	15,099.00
WA ST DEPT OF REVENUE - EXCISE TAX	83,254.38
WA ST DEPT OF REVENUE - LEASEHOLD TAX	707.10
WESTERN CONFERENCE OF TEAMSTERS	17,451.00
WHATCOM COUNTY AUDITOR	202,002.95
WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS	150.00
WHATCOM FARMERS CO-OP	162.41
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 1,443,921.98

4. **Public Comment** – Todd Lagestee addressed the commission thanking them for continuing to say the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Lagestee said that he had heard discussion of refraining from saying the Pledge at a different public meeting and was appreciative that the PUD continues to do so at its commission meetings.

5. **General Manager’s Report** – General Manager Heimgartner reported several things to the commission including:
 - a. That Whatcom County has had issues during their transition to a new accounting system. The general manager assured the commission that staff is working to correct this situation ASAP.
 - b. The PUD received a bill for its portion of the cost of the Whatcom County Elections as determined by Whatcom County. The PUD had budgeted \$180,000 to cover the costs of the elections. The bill from Whatcom County was over \$200,000 with the entire cost of the elections being just over \$700,000 therefore the PUD paid roughly one-third of the entire election costs. The general manager stated that he will be looking into what can be done to resolve the high-cost to the PUD of elections.
 - c. Annette is working with the Teamster’s union on their audit of the PUD.
 - d. The PUD’s bond rating meeting will be on January 31, 2025 and the general manager is hopeful and expects a good rating.
 - e. Management is in the final stages of preparing the contract with Maul Foster Alongi for consulting services on the strategic plan.
 - f. Crina Hoyer is working with staff to put together a team building retreat with a tentative date of Friday March 14, 2025 in Blaine.

12. Adjourn

There being no further business Commissioner Arnett adjourned the meeting at 10:33 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/>

6. **Operations Report** – Kurt Wank, Assistant General Manager presented photographs to the commission showing the progress of the construction of the Plant 2 turbidity vault.

7. **Old Business**

a) **Broadband Update** – Andrew Entrikin, Director of Broadband and New Power Supply, gave an update on BEAD grant application process.

b) **Adjudication Update** – John Sitkin, Legal Counsel updated the commission on the recent court hearings regarding the upcoming adjudication process. He explained that the biggest hurdle facing the process is how to ensure information gets to all interested parties. Mr. Sitkin explained that as far as he is aware there is no precedent of a case with this many potential claimants (Approximately 10,000 or so). Mr. Sitkin is working with his committee to keep the costs of this legal process down for the potential claimants and working to find a solution to streamline the notification process.

c) **Geothermal Update** – General Manager Heimgartner reported that there would be a presentation of the findings of the geothermal study on February 7, 2025.

d) **Strategic Plan Update** – Addressed during the general manager’s report.

8. **New Business**

a) Action 1: Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association 2025 Funding Request – Rebecca Schlotterback, Contracts & Regulatory Compliance Manager introduced James Van Der Voort from the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association who gave a presentation to the commission outlining how the PUD’s financial contribution to the association has been used by the association. After the presentation Commissioner Arnett made a motion to approve the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association 2025 Funding Request. Commissioner Ury seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b) Action 2: Approval of Agreement with Complete Design, Inc. for Analysis and Upgrade Design for Plant 1 Intake Structure – Kurt Wank, Assistant General Manager reported to the commission regarding the hiring of Complete Design, Inc. to review and redesign the Plant 1 intake structure to allow for staff to be able to perform regular maintenance on the intake system has not been able to be performed on the current system. This design work would be part of the Plant No. 1 rebuild design. Commissioner Arnett made a motion to approve the agreement with Complete Design, Inc. Commissioner Ury seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

9. **Commission Reports/Per Diem Requests:**

Commissioner Arnett reported on her online attendance to the recent WPUDA meeting and that she plans on attending the upcoming WPUDA meeting in person

Commissioner Ury reported on his attendance to the recent new commissioner meetings at WPUDA and requested and was approved a per diem request to attend the geothermal study presentation on February 7, 2025.

Commissioner Deshmane reported on the various meetings he has attended and made mention of input he has received from members of the public.

10. **Public Comment** – Todd Lagestee referred back to the NSEA presentation earlier and noted their use of incense cedar trees in their planting. He informed the commission that there is a sale happening on incense cedar seedlings should anyone be interested.

11. **Executive Session**

Executive Session: The Commission recessed the meeting at 10:20 am for a brief executive session to discuss the general manager’s performance review. No action was taken The Commission reopened the meeting at 10:30 AM.