

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR
MEETING OF THE COMMISSION
February 11, 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
Rick Maricle	Citizen
Dave Olson	Citizen
Tyler McDevitt	Citizen
Scott Bauer	NWMA

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 28, 2025 & Approval of the Claims of February 11, 2025:

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

February 11, 2025 - JRS (COB)

Claims of ~~January 14, 2025~~:

ALUMICHEM CANADA INC (formerly WATERHOUSE ENV.)	31,552.40
AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION	375.00
ARBITRAGE GROUP INC.	1,000.00
AT&T MOBILITY	1,835.92
BELLINGHAM HERALD	730.00
CANYON INDUSTRIES	919.69
CENTRAL WELDING SUPPLY	105.53
CESCO NEW CONCEPT CHEMICAL PRODUCTS	117.39
COBB, FENDLEY & ASSOCIATES, INC	4,488.79

CORNERSTONE MANAGEMENT, INC.	2,070.00
CRINA HOYER CONSULTING	780.00
DRAYTON ARCHAEOLOGY	3,823.70
ENVIRO-TECH DIVING, INC.	12,360.13
EXACT SCIENTIFIC SERVICES INC.	30.00
FASTENAL	654.66
FEDERAL EXPRESS	32.09
FERNDALE ACE HARDWARE	141.64
FERNDALE AUTO PARTS	615.48
FERNDALE CITY OF	50.00
FOSTER GARVEY PC	19,447.00
GATEWAY CONTROLS	1,573.25
HDR ENGINEERING, INC.	37,533.14
HEALTH PROMOTIONS NORTHWEST	150.00
HOOPER, STEPHANIE	40.10
INSIGHT PUBLIC SECTOR, INC.	10,498.37
LITHTEX NW LLC	443.90
MOTION AND FLOW CONTROL PRODUCTS INC	63.33
NEL/SON DISTRIBUTING DBA NELSON-REISNER	5,783.14
NOOKSACK SALMON ENHANCEMENT ASSOCIATION	20,000.00
NORTHWEST CASCADE, INC.	165.50
NW PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION	3,810.00
ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LLC	70.28
P&P EXCAVATING, LLC	297,253.61
PLATT ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO	23,557.94
PROSCAPES	565.76
PUD #1 OF WHATCOM COUNTY	632.55
PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC	4,027.95
REGENCE BLUE SHIELD	47,453.82
RICOH USA	252.38
SSC - SANITARY SERVICE COMPANY	683.27
STERICYCLE ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS	63.98
TEAMSTER LOCAL #231	699.00
TYLER TECHNOLOGIES-INCODE	19,834.46
ULINE, INC.	70.31
UNITED WAY OF WHATCOM COUNTY	570.00
UTILITIES UNDERGROUND LOCATION	9.45
WASHINGTON DENTAL SERVICE	3,039.75
WASHINGTON TEAMSTERS WELFARE	16,048.80
WHATCOM FARMERS CO-OP	300.71
WHATCOM JANITORIAL	1,575.00
WHISTLE WORKWEAR	343.32
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 578,242.49

4. Public Comment – None

5. General Manager’s Report – General Manager Heimgartner reported several things to the commission including:

- a. That the General Manager had to declare a state of emergency to allocate expenditures necessary to mitigate potential frazil ice buildup at the water plant intakes.
- b. Open public records training for Commissioners would be on the first commission meeting in March, March 11, 2025.
- c. AltaGas has suspended their public benefits board due to the Federal Government’s restrictions on DEI programs.
- d. The General Manager would be in Washington D.C. at the time of the next commission meeting and Kurt Wank, Assistant General Manager would fill in at the meeting.

e. On February 18th 2025 Representative Larson will be at the PUD for a meeting Commissioner Ury will be attending and Commissioner Deshmane will serve as alternate should Commissioner Ury not be able to attend.

f. The General Manager reported that CERB is looking to offer operation and maintenance grants for public entities to provide O & M services for broadband infrastructure. The General Manager suggested that the commission may want to participate in the public comment period regarding the grants. Commissioner Deshmane made a motion to authorize the general manager to draft a policy statement in support of broadening of CERB funding to allow for operation and maintenance of broadband infrastructure. Commissioner Arnett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Operations Report – Kurt Wank, Assistant General Manager reported on the PUD’s efforts to avoid frazil ice buildup on the plant intakes. He also presented photographs to the commission showing the progress of the construction of the Plant 2 turbidity vault.

7. Old Business

a) Broadband Update – No updated information since the previous meeting.

b) Adjudication Update – John Sitkin, Legal Counsel updated the commission on the recent developments related to the upcoming adjudication proceedings.

c) Geothermal Update – General Manager Heimgartner gave a presentation to the commission about the recent geothermal studies that were completed on Mount Baker.

d) Strategic Plan Update – No updated information since the previous meeting.

8. New Business

a) Action 1: Approval of Letter Agreement for Cost Reimbursement by AltaGas Ferndale Terminal for Whatcom PUD Expenses Associated with the Douglas Road Vault and Meter Replacement Project. Commissioner Arnett made a motion to approve the executive director signing the letter agreement on behalf of the PUD. Commissioner Ury seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

b) Resolution 1: Approve Resolution No. 871 Authorizing Cancellation of Warrant For Puget Sound Energy. Commissioner Ury made a motion to approve cancellation of the warrant. Commissioner Arnett seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Commission Reports/Per Diem Requests:

Commissioner Arnett reported on that she will be attending the upcoming WPUDA meeting online and will be attending the WRIA 1 meeting on February 27th.

Commissioner Ury reported on his attendance at the previous WPUDA meeting and noted that he will be attending the upcoming WPUDA meetings in person.

Commissioner Deshmane reported on the various meetings he has attended and noted that he will also be attending the WPUDA meetings in person.

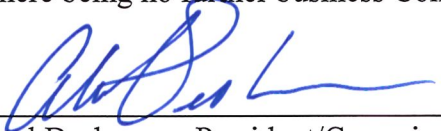
10. Public Comment – Todd Lagestee gave kudos to the commission on their involvement with the geothermal study and the project as a whole. He asked questions of the commission regarding the impact of induced seismicity and the economic benefit/impact geothermal would have for Whatcom County. The commission and the general manager answered Mr. Lagestee’s questions.

11. Executive Session

None.

12. Adjourn

There being no further business Commissioner Arnett adjourned the meeting at 10:05 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/>