

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

Dave Olson	Citizen
Tyler McDevitt	Citizen

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**ACTION:**

Commissioner Arnett 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 February 25, 2025 & Approval of the Claims of March 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.

**Claims of March 11, 2025:**

AT&T MOBILITY	1,836.22
BAKER SEPTIC TANK PUMPING	1,014.70
BRIM TRACTOR COMPANY	145.84
CENTRAL WELDING SUPPLY	1,510.85
COBB, FENDLEY & ASSOCIATES, INC	2,010.00
COMPLETE DESIGN INC	2,700.00
CORNERSTONE MANAGEMENT, INC.	276.00
CRINA HOYER CONSULTING	585.00
CULLIGAN NORTHWEST	67.86
EAGLE-EYE AERIAL SOLUTIONS, LLC	800.00
EXACT SCIENTIFIC SERVICES INC.	30.00
FEDERAL EXPRESS	16.02

FERNDALE ACE HARDWARE	78.20
FERNDALE AUTO PARTS	131.84
FERNDALE CITY OF	344.42
FOSTER GARVEY PC	19,732.00
GOODWIN, CHRISTOPHER	381.71
HACH COMPANY	104.24
HARDWARE SALES, INC .	23.47
HEALTH PROMOTIONS NORTHWEST	150.00
HEIMGARTNER, CHRIS	2,248.32
HESS, DEVIN	112.82
HOOPER, STEPHANIE	57.49
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	386.73
K&L PRESTON GATES & ELLIS	74,000.00
MOTION AND FLOW CONTROL PRODUCTS INC	684.19
NEL/SON DISTRIBUTING DBA NELSON-REISNER	1,181.43
NORTHWEST CASCADE, INC.	165.50
NORTHWEST FIBER DBA ZIPLY FIBER	868.40
PACIFIC POWER BATTERIES	52.25
PARAMOUNT SUPPLY COMPANY	972.83
PITNEY BOWES GLOBAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LLC	99.51
PLATT ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO	5,207.22
PROSCAPES	565.76
PUD #1 OF WHATCOM COUNTY	3.81
PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC	3,838.50
REGENCE BLUE SHIELD	42,924.58
RICOH USA	184.42
S&P GLOBAL PLATTS	3,612.16
SCHOLTEN'S EQUIPMENT INC	153.73
SSC - SANITARY SERVICE COMPANY	680.10
TEAMSTER LOCAL #231	837.00
ULINE, INC.	60.50
UNITED WAY OF WHATCOM COUNTY	570.00
UTILITIES UNDERGROUND LOCATION	36.45
VALVOLINE	76.92
WAECO CONSTRUCTION LLC	30,925.55
WASHINGTON DENTAL SERVICE	3,153.05
WASHINGTON TEAMSTERS WELFARE	16,048.80
WHATCOM COUNTY TREASURER	852.61
WHATCOM JANITORIAL	1,575.00
WHISTLE WORKWEAR	505.13
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 224,579.13</b>

**4. Public Comment – None**

**5. General Manager’s Report –** Chris Heimgartner, General Manager reported that a special commission meeting would be held on Friday March 14, 2025 with Crina Hoyer present to discuss the rolls and responsibilities of the commissioners and the General Manager. Discussion was had amongst the commissioners and it was decided to set the start time for the special meeting at 2:30 PM with an end time of approximately 5:00 PM. The commissioners also decided that as part of the special meeting there would be discussion and possible action in regards to upcoming Washington State legislation that relates to public utility districts.

Mr. Heimgartner also reported to the Commission about his trip to Washington DC and his meetings at APPA and PPC. He noted that the recent tariffs placed on Canada by the US Federal Government and the subsequent Tariffs placed on the United States by Canada were a hot topic of discussion in relation to how they would affect energy rates as Canada has placed and are planning to potential place tariffs on energy sources exported to the United States. Mr. Heimgartner introduces Brian Walters, Assistant General Manager to present to the Commission research he had done related to the possible effects of tariffs on energy rates. Mr. Walters stated

that the full impact to rates of the Canadian tariffs on energy imports was not yet fully known as there are many variables that go into determining power rates. Mr. Waters noted that long term there would likely be an increase in rates due to the tariffs though those amounts can not be determined as yet.

Mr. Heimgartner continued his report to the Commission about his trip to Washington DC. Mr. Heimgartner reported that at the APPA meeting a hot topic of discussion was the impact on the supply of major electrical components IE, transformers, switches, etc. by private tech firms building substations to supply power to server farms. Mr. Heimgartner noted that the ability to supply major electrical components was already limited due to limited suppliers and inventory and that the increased demand from private firms has not only increased scarcity of the components but has drastically driven up costs.

Lastly, Mr. Heimgartner reported on his talks with federal congressmen and senators regarding the Bonneville Power Administration staffing cuts. He noted that the senators and congress people he spoke with were aware of the situation and they along with members of WPUA have been pushing back against the staffing cuts. On that topic Mr. Heimgartner reported that at the PPC meeting he attended it was noted that BPA was given authority to hire back staff that had been cut. Also at that meeting he noted that BPA had issued a draft decision to join SPP's Markets Plus energy market.

**6. Operations Report** – Kurt Wank, Assistant General Manager reported that on April 1, 2025 the PUD will have a contractor out to examine the 115 KV transmission line 3-way switch to determine what needs to be done to repair and stabilize the switch.

**7. Old Business**

**a) Broadband Update** – Chris Heimgartner, General Manager and Andrew Entrikin, Director of Broadband and New Power Supply reported to the Commission that Round 2 of the BEAD grant process has been pushed back a week and until Round 2 was opened there will be no information as to what service areas were awarded grants from Round 1.

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

**d) Geothermal Update** – No updated information since the previous meeting, still waiting on the final report.

**e) Strategic Plan Update** – Chris Heimgartner, General Manager informed the Commission that he will be signing the work order to begin the strategic planning process. Mr. Heimgartner noted that once the work order has been signed strategic planning session meetings will be scheduled.

Due to time constraints Commissioner Arnett made a motion to table agenda item 9 a. Annual OPMA/PRA Training until the March 25, 2025 regular commission meeting. Commissioner Ury seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**8. New Business**

a) Action 1: Approval of Amendment 3 To Work Order No. 2 With Consor For Additional Engineering Services For A Cost Not To Exceed Amount Of Four Million Four Hundred Ninety-Two Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-Three Dollars (**\$4,492,953**) And Authorize The District's General Manager To Execute The Amendment was considered by the Commission. Commissioner Arnett motioned to approved Action 1. Commission Deshmane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b) Resolution 1: Approval of Resolution 873 Updating The Target Balance And Signatories On The KeyBank Revolving Checking Account. Commissioner Arnett motioned to approve Resolution 873. Commissioner Ury seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Commissioner Arnett had nothing to report

Commissioner Ury reported that he will be attending WPUA and discussed the possible attendance of a commissioner at the Whatcom Planning Meeting on Thursday March 13, 2025 to provide input from the PUD related to the County's consideration of what kilovolt level of power

lines they wish to allow in the county. Commissioner Deshmane offered to attend the meeting and present the PUD's position that there should be no restriction on the voltage of the lines.

Commissioner Deshmane reported on his attendance WPUDA and the PPC meeting.

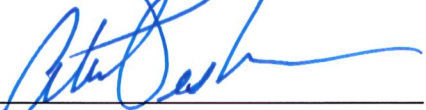
**10. Public Comment – None**

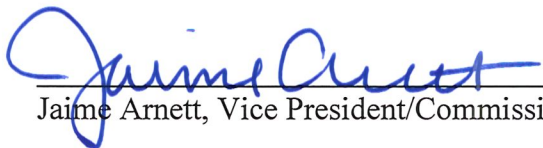
**11. Executive Session**

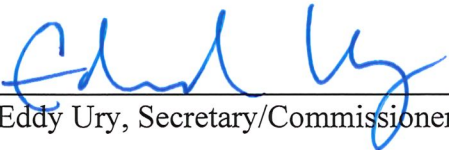
Executive session was had to discuss potential litigation, No action was taken

**12. Adjourn**

There being no further business Commissioner Deshmane adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

  
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Atul Deshmane, President/Commissioner

  
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Jaime Arnett, Vice President/Commissioner

  
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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/>