

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR  
MEETING OF THE COMMISSION  
April 22, 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                                |
| Chris Heimgartner     | General Manager                             |
| Jon Sitkin            | General Counsel, CSD Attorneys at Law       |
| Aaron Peterson        | IT/SCADA Technician                         |
| Andrew Entrikin       | Director – Broadband and New Power Supply   |
| Annette Smith         | Director of Finance                         |
| 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                         |
| Paul Siegmund         | Automation & Technology Manager             |
| Rebecca Schlotterback | Contracts and Regulatory Compliance Manager |
| Stephanie Hooper      | Accountant I                                |

**VISITORS**

|                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| Rick Maricle   | Citizen |
| Dave Olson     | Citizen |
| Tyler McDevitt | Citizen |
| Todd Lagestee  | Citizen |
| Nash Elbadawi  | BP      |

**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 the Regular Meeting of April 8, 2025 & Approval of the Claims of April 22, 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 April 8, 2025:**

|                                     |            |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| ASTOUND BUSINESS SOLUTIONS          | 1,667.55   |
| BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION     | 760,999.60 |
| CENTRAL WELDING SUPPLY              | 105.53     |
| CHMELIK SITKIN & DAVIS              | 11,372.32  |
| COMCAST                             | 322.09     |
| COMCAST - NWRC                      | 217.47     |
| COMPRESSORS NORTHWEST (AIRWARE INC) | 719.33     |
| CRITICAL INSIGHT INC                | 168.39     |

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| DESHMANE, ATUL                             | 433.64                 |
| EMERSON LLLP                               | 3,039.38               |
| EUROFINS ENVIRONMENT TESTING               | 96.00                  |
| FERNDALE ACE HARDWARE                      | 31.59                  |
| FERNDALE AUTO PARTS                        | 67.07                  |
| GOBLE SAMPSON ASSOCIATES INC               | 6,810.48               |
| HARDWARE SALES, INC .                      | 54.27                  |
| HDR ENGINEERING, INC.                      | 36,411.08              |
| INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE                   | 26,657.57              |
| LITHTEX NW LLC                             | 112.07                 |
| MASSMUTUAL RETIREMENT SVCS LLC             | 16,960.00              |
| MOTION AND FLOW CONTROL PRODUCTS INC       | 1,020.68               |
| NORTHWEST CASCADE, INC.                    | 278.00                 |
| P&P EXCAVATING, LLC                        | 3,856.96               |
| PACIFIC SURVEY & ENGINEERING               | 1,053.75               |
| PAYLOCITY                                  | 421.64                 |
| PAYROLL                                    | 279,972.02             |
| PITNEY BOWES GLOBAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LLC | 541.99                 |
| PLATT ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO                   | 156.54                 |
| PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY           | 760.38                 |
| PROSCAPES                                  | 565.76                 |
| PUBLIC UTILITY RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES    | 63,031.32              |
| PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC                    | 1,800.49               |
| STAR RENTALS                               | 1,708.88               |
| TOTH AND ASSOCIATES, INC                   | 2,025.00               |
| ULINE, INC.                                | 294.81                 |
| UNIT PROCESS COMPANY                       | 1,128.56               |
| WA FEDERAL VISA CARD MEMBER SERVICES       | 9,797.77               |
| WA ST DEPT OF REVENUE - EXCISE TAX         | 98,018.14              |
| WA ST DEPT OF REVENUE - LEASEHOLD TAX      | 707.10                 |
| WESTERN CONFERENCE OF TEAMSTERS            | 10,262.00              |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>                         | <b>\$ 1,343,647.22</b> |

**4. Public Comment – None**

**5. General Manager’s Report** – Chris Heimgartner, General Manager reported to the commission regarding his recent trip to the Northwest Public Power Association Engineering and Operations Conference. The general manager told the commission that the conference was about battery storage. The takeaways from the conference were the current high cost and difficult in recycling batteries once they have outlived their usefulness. It was noted however, that should a recycling industry form and be successful there will be value in the components of batteries that will can make them sustainable and profitable. Lastly, the general manager, informed the commission that the PUD’s contract with Bonneville was due on May 6<sup>th</sup> and as presented the staff suggestion is to go with a load following system per the commission’s approval. The commission then gave the executive director permission to sign the load following contract with Bonneville Power Administration.

**6. Operations Report** – Kurt Wank, Assistant General Manager reported that Variable Frequency Drive 4 is being repaired as part of an emergency that was declared and that as soon as the repairs are complete the declared emergency will be over. Mr. Wank also noted that while the drive was down the sediment basins had been washed down.

**7. Old Business**

**a) Broadband Update** – Andrew Entrikin, Director of Broadband and New Power Supply reported to the commission that the second round of BEAD grant applications are in process.

**b) Adjudication Update** – Jon Sitkin, Legal Counsel reported that there had been some confusion about the deadline for claim filing and that the deadline was in fact May of 2026. He noted that while still in the early stages of the process over 100+ claims have been filed.

**d) Geothermal Update** – Andrew Entrikin, Director of Broadband and New Power Supply reported that we are still waiting for the second update on the project.

**e) Strategic Plan Update** – Chris Heimgartner, General Manager informed the commission that a logistics meeting was held with staff and the team at Maul Foster & Alongi. The entire strategic planning process is due to finish in October. Dates for special meetings to meet with Maul Foster & Alongi, as well as Crina Hoyer will be scheduled in the upcoming weeks.

## **8. New Business**

a) Report 1: Kurt Wank, Assistant General Manager presented a report on the progress made on the reconstruction of Plant 1. We are about 30% along in the planning process and the project is on track to meet its deadlines.

b) Action 1: Accept the District’s 2024 Annual Financial Report and Authorize the Submittal to the State Auditor’s Office. Annette Smith, Finance Director gave a presentation on the 2024 annual financial report and requested that commission approve the report for submittal to the state auditor’s office. Commissioner Arnett made the motion to approve and submit the report. Commissioner Ury seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

c) Action 2: Approve the Purchase Contract with Oxy Corp, authorize the General Manager to execute said Contract, and authorize the issuance of the earnest money provided for in the Purchase Contract, conditioned on:

A) Legal Counsel final approval of the Legal Description of the Property being acquired to include the 20’ easement connecting the buffer tract with Northgate Way.

B) General Manager Approval of the final purchase contract providing for the most efficient available process for creating the Property as a legal lot of record. Commissioner Arnett made the motion to approve the motion as written above. Commissioner Ury seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

d) Resolution 1: Resolution No. 877, Resolution by The Board of Commissioners of Public Utility District No.1 of Whatcom County (District) Correcting and Superseding Resolution No. 872. Commissioner Ury made the motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Arnett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Commissioner Arnett talked about attending the upcoming WPUDA meetings and discussed with her fellow commissioners and staff ideas for the PUD’s 4<sup>th</sup> of July float.

Commissioner Ury reported on his upcoming attendance to the WPUDA meetings.

Commissioner Deshmane reported on his upcoming attendance to the WPUDA meetings and noted that he will be attending the Whatcom County Planning Commission meeting to voice the PUD’s approval of the increasing of County Code transmission line limits to 230 KV.

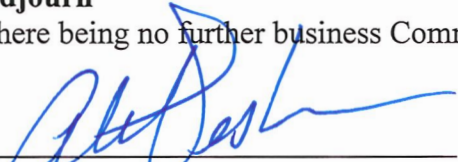
**10. Public Comment** – Todd Lagestee thank Finance Director Smith for her presentation and gave comments about how he would like to see other details in the financial reports moving forward.

## **11. Executive Session**

None.

**12. Adjourn**

There being no further business Commissioner Deshmane adjourned the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

  
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Atul Deshmane, President/Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jaime Arnett, Vice President/Commissioner

 5/13/25  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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/>