

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR
MEETING OF THE COMMISSION
August 12, 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

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| Atul Deshmane | Commissioner |
| Jaime Arnett | Commissioner |
| Eddy Ury | Commissioner |
| Jon Sitkin | General Counsel, CSD Attorneys at Law |
| Chris Heimgartner | General Manager |
| Aaron Peterson | IT/SCADA Technician |
| Andrew Entrikin | Director – Broadband and New Power Supply |
| Annette Smith | Finance Director |
| 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

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|----------------|-------------|
| Dave Olson | Citizen |
| Robin Dexter | Citizen |
| Tyler McDevitt | Phillips 66 |

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 July 22, 2025 & Approval of the Claims of August 12, 2025:

Commissioner Arnett made a motion to approve the regular minutes of July 22, 2025
Commissioner Ury seconded the motion. Commissioner Deshmane recused himself from voting on the July 22, 2025 minutes as he was not present for the meeting. The motion passed with both commissioners present at the meeting voting to approve the minutes.

Commissioner Ury made a motion to approve the claims of August 12, 2025 Commissioner Arnett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

Claims of August 12, 2025:

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|-------------------------------------|----------|
| ARBITRAGE GROUP INC. | 1,000.00 |
| INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY, INC | 33.19 |
| ASTOUND BUSINESS SOLUTIONS | 555.85 |
| AT&T MOBILITY | 1,838.21 |
| CARLSON STEEL WORKS, INC | 1,565.82 |
| CESCO NEW CONCEPT CHEMICAL PRODUCTS | 117.39 |
| COBB, FENDLEY & ASSOCIATES, INC | 7,732.29 |

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| CORNERSTONE MANAGEMENT, INC. | 2,286.00 |
| CRINA HOYER CONSULTING | 2,728.85 |
| CULLIGAN NORTHWEST | 301.17 |
| ENTRIKIN, ANDREW | 2,608.77 |
| EXACT SCIENTIFIC SERVICES INC. | 30.00 |
| FEDERAL EXPRESS | 6.45 |
| FERNDALE ACE HARDWARE | 130.17 |
| GEO TEST SERVICES | 1,289.85 |
| HACH COMPANY | 8,945.58 |
| HARDWARE SALES, INC . | 39.95 |
| HD FOWLER CO, INC | 3,919.77 |
| HEALTH PROMOTIONS NORTHWEST | 150.00 |
| HEIMGARTNER, CHRIS | 1,642.29 |
| HOOPER, STEPHANIE | 53.20 |
| LITHTEX NW LLC | 443.90 |
| MAUL FOSTER & ALONGI | 17,967.43 |
| MODERN PAINTING GROUP | 42,214.40 |
| NEL/SON DISTRIBUTING DBA NELSON-REISNER | 1,596.03 |
| NORTH COAST ELECTRIC COMPANY | 9,223.69 |
| NORTHWEST CASCADE, INC. | 343.50 |
| NORTHWEST FIBER DBA ZIPLY FIBER | 881.16 |
| P&P EXCAVATING, LLC | 1,871.36 |
| PACIFIC SURVEY & ENGINEERING | 3,330.00 |
| PLATT ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO | 5,644.12 |
| PORTAL WAY FARM & GARDEN | 152.59 |
| PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY | 719.13 |
| PUD #1 OF WHATCOM COUNTY | 333.85 |
| PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC | 9,762.04 |
| REGENCE BLUE SHIELD | 44,462.94 |
| RICOH USA | 323.96 |
| RICOH USA FINANCIAL SVC | 256.46 |
| SMITH MECHANICAL | 364.93 |
| SSC - SANITARY SERVICE COMPANY | 681.36 |
| STAR RENTALS | 2,457.33 |
| STERICYCLE ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS | 121.39 |
| SUPER WINDOWS | 1,375.00 |
| TEAMSTER LOCAL #231 | 756.00 |
| ULINE, INC. | 426.32 |
| UNITED WAY OF WHATCOM COUNTY | 425.00 |
| UTILITIES UNDERGROUND LOCATION | 24.30 |
| VALVOLINE | 114.65 |
| VANTAGE POINT SOLUTIONS | 3,783.68 |
| WA PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION | 375.00 |
| WA ST DEPT OF HEALTH, OFFICE OF DRINKING WATER | 424.00 |
| WA ST DEPT OF LABOR & INDUST | 52.50 |
| WASHINGTON DENTAL SERVICE | 3,033.80 |
| WASHINGTON TEAMSTERS WELFARE | 14,042.70 |
| WHATCOM FARMERS CO-OP | 26.89 |
| WHATCOM JANITORIAL | 1,575.00 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$ 206,561.21 |

4. **Public Comment** – None.

5. **General Manager's Report** – Chris Heimgartner, General Manager reported he will have jury duty the first week in September. The General Manager followed up with the commissioners regarding finding a lobbyist for the PUD for the geothermal project. The General manager reached out to some elected officials and has some leads he will be pursuing towards securing a lobbyist for the geothermal project. The General Manager reported on his trip to the PPC meeting and discussed the issues facing transmission that were discussed at the PPC as well as the BPA contracts that will be forthcoming. The General Manager also reported on the court case regarding BPA and their selection of Markets Plus over EDAM. Lastly, the General Manager informed the commission that he will be at the Western Energy Summit next week.

6. **Operations Report** – Kurt Wank, Assistant General Manager informed the commission of the paving project that is ongoing around the main office area and Plant 2. He also informed the commission that tree trimming near the PUD's transmission line has started and that work on D Station is progressing steadily. Mr. Wank informed the commission that the PUD has received the 60% Plant 1 work plans and that staff will be reviewing those plans and will report back to the commission following their review.

7. **Old Business**

a) **Broadband Update** – Andrew Entrikin, Director of Broadband and New Power Supply reviewed the history of the BEAD grant project up to this point with the commissioners and informed them that the PUD should know by August 25th if any of the project areas the PUD and the Port applied for have been awarded to the PUD and the Port. Following the award there will be a public comment period and hearing process. Chris Heimgartner, General Manager updated the commission on the Point Roberts project and the progress being made on the redesign of that project.

b) **Adjudication Update** – Jon Sitkin, General Counsel reported the adjudication committee is working on procedural rules for the adjudication process.

d) **Geothermal Update** – Chris Heimgartner, General Manager informed the commission that the PUD had signed up for Energy Northwest's consortium on geo thermal and are one of the founding members of that consortium.

e) **Strategic Plan Update** – Chris Heimgartner, General Manager noted that there is a special meeting this Friday August 15, 2025 with Crina Hoyer to finalize the vision and values for the strategic plan. The commissioners and executive staff had a lengthy discussion regarding the process, thus far, of the strategic plan. The commissioners requested that further clarification of the plan be discussed as part of Friday's meeting.

8. **New Business**

Annette Smith, Finance Director presented the PUD's mid-year financial report to the commission and fielded any questions the commissioner had regarding the budget.

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

Commissioner Arnett reported on a meeting she had with Senator Shewmake regarding broadband and the BEAD funding project.

Commissioner Deshmane discussed his vision for the future of Grandview and what he views the PUD's role in that could be. Commissioner Deshmane also asked if the commission would consider a joint meeting with the Whatcom County Council to discuss water storage. The other commissioners were in agreement with this idea.

Commissioner Ury reported on his attendance to the Energy Northwest conference. One of the topics discussed at Energy Northwest was future electricity shortages and how to overcome them. The commissioners and staff had a lengthy discussion regarding potential solutions to future energy shortages.

10. **Public Comment**

Robin Dexter asked the commission for clarification about details of Friday's meeting as well as availability of draft strategic planning materials. The commission answered Mr. Dexter's questions.

11. Executive Session

There was a brief five-minute executive session to discuss adjudication/litigation updates. The commissioners recessed the meeting for the executive session at 10:04 a.m. and resumed the regular meeting at 10:10 a.m.

12. Adjourn

There being no further business Commissioner Deshmane adjourned the meeting at 10:16 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/>