

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR  
MEETING OF THE COMMISSION  
August 26, 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	General Counsel, CSD Attorneys at Law
Peter Ruffatto	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
Jon Littlefield	Electric System Supervisor
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
Robin Dexter	Citizen
Hilary Wilkinson	Maul, Foster, Alongi
Todd Lagestee	Citizen

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**ACTION:**

A second action item titled: “Authorize General Manager to Approve Renewal of Dental and Medical Benefits” was added to the agenda as item 8c under new business. Commissioner Arnett made a motion to approve the agenda with the additional action item. Commissioner Ury seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**3. Approval of Consent Agenda**

**a) Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 12, 2025, Minutes of the Special Meeting of August 15, 2025, and Approval of the Claims of August 26, 2025:**

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

**Claims of August 26, 2025:**

ALL SEASON SPRAYING	1,834.37
AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION	740.78
BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION	835,584.22
CENTRAL WELDING SUPPLY	105.53
CHMELIK SITKIN & DAVIS	20,713.38
COMCAST	322.09
DIGITAL BOUNDARY GROUP, INC.	30,700.00

ESCAPE VELOCITY HOLDING INC DBA TRACE3	7,425.33
EUROFINS ENVIRONMENT TESTING	35.00
FERNDALE ACE HARDWARE	104.60
FERNDALE AUTO PARTS	168.78
FOSTER GARVEY PC	22,218.00
GUARDIAN SECURITY SYSTEMS, INC	242.38
HACKER, RONALD G	368.00
HARDWARE SALES, INC .	134.69
INTEGRATED POWER SERVICES LLC	20,652.61
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	25,484.83
MASSMUTUAL RETIREMENT SVCS LLC	12,010.00
ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LLC	39.28
PACIFIC SURVEY & ENGINEERING	3,033.13
PAYLOCITY	399.16
PAYROLL	273,371.39
PITNEY BOWES GLOBAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LLC	201.92
PLATT ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO	89.11
PUBLIC UTILITY RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES	4,173.45
PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC	552.48
ROGERS MACHINERY COMPANY INC	9,701.76
SERVEPRO OF WHATCOM COUNTY	707.20
TENABLE, INC.	15,621.43
ULINE, INC.	166.27
URY, EDWARD	214.20
VALVOLINE	70.27
WA FEDERAL VISA CARD MEMBER SERVICES	6,752.72
WA ST AUDITOR'S OFFICE	27,674.90
WA ST DEPT OF ECOLOGY-CASHIERING	7,860.00
WA ST DEPT OF REVENUE - EXCISE TAX	105,534.58
WASHINGTON ALARM, INC.	190.59
WESTERN CONFERENCE OF TEAMSTERS	9,387.00
WESTERN REFINERY SERVICES	23,011.20
WHATCOM COUNTY DEPT OF HEALTH	278.36
XYLEM I LLC	23,400.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,491,274.99</b>

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 noted that the SAO audit exit interview will be September 19, Commissioner Ury will attend the exit interview. The general manager lastly presented a report on his recent trip to Idaho and the electrical utilities conference he attended. At the conference presenters discussed next generation power generation and speakers presented on fission, fusion, and geo thermal. A discussion was had between the general manager and the commission about future power needs and outlook for the Pacific Northwest.

6. **Operations Report** – Kurt Wank, Assistant General Manager informed the commission that work on D Station is progressing steadily and that tree removal by the PUD's 115 KV lines is continuing as well. Mr. Wank lastly reported that the river conditions are in the average for this time of year with water temperatures at 63 degrees Fahrenheit.

7. **Old Business**

a) **Broadband Update** – Andrew Entrikin, Director of Broadband and New Power Supply reported on the BEAD grants awarded to Whatcom County. Three project areas that the Port and PUD applied for were awarded to the Port and PUD totaling nearly 25 million dollars in grant money awarded for the areas the Port and PUD applied for.

b) **Adjudication Update** – None.

**d) Geothermal Update** – None.

**e) Strategic Plan Update** – Hilary Wilkinson from Maul, Foster, and Alongi, presented the draft strategic plan to the commissioners. Commissioners, staff, and Ms. Wilkinson had a lengthy discussion about the draft. Commission requested a special meeting tentatively scheduled for September 5, 2025 to more thoroughly discuss and flesh out the strategic plan with Maul, Foster, and Alongi.

**8. New Business**

Andrew Entrikin, Director of Broadband and New Power presented Action 1: “Approve Change Order No.01 For Cobb, Fendley & Associates, Inc Contract for the Whatcom PUD Rural Broadband FTTP Project” to the commission. Commissioner Arnett made a motion to approve action item number one. Commissioner Ury seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Stephanie Hooper, Accountant for Whatcom PUD presented Resolution 1: “Approve Resolution No. 878 – Cancellation of Warrant” to the commission. Commissioner Ury made a motion to approve Resolution No. 878. Commissioner Arnett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Lisa Moeller, Director of HR and Communications presented Action 2: “Authorize General Manager to Approve Renewal of Dental and Medical Benefits” to the commission. Commissioner Ury made a motion to approve action item number two. Commissioner Arnett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Commissioner Arnett reported on her attendance at the Ferndale Chamber of Commerce meeting and the report given by the mayor of the City of Ferndale regarding the new well the city recently dug to provide water to the city.

Commissioner Deshmane reported that the Port has recently published their buildable lands report and that the PUD commission was encouraged to review it with particular attention to the section regarding Grandview.

Commissioner Ury reported that the Whatcom County Council was nearing completion of their draft comprehensive plan and that the commission may want to review the chapter on utilities.

**10. Public Comment**

Todd Lagestee asked a question regarding the safety factor of the design limitations for geothermal construction. The general manager addressed Mr. Lagestee’s concerns.


**11. Executive Session**

None.

**12. Adjourn**

There being no further business Commissioner Deshmane adjourned the meeting at 10:18 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/>