

**PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT No. 1
of Whatcom County**

Agenda for the Regular Meeting of September 9, 2025

8:15 a.m. at the PUD Office

(In-Person, Zoom, & Teleconference)

1. Call to Order | Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of Agenda (2 minutes)
3. Consent Agenda (5 minutes)
 - a) Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 26, 2025 and the Minutes of the Special Commission Meeting of September 5, 2025
 - b) Approval of Claims for September 9, 2025
4. Public Comment (10 minutes – Individual speakers: 3 minutes)
5. General Manager Report (20 minutes)
6. Operations Report (10 minutes)
7. Old Business (20 minutes)
 - a) Broadband Update
 - b) Adjudication Update
 - c) Geothermal Update
 - d) Strategic Plan Update:
8. New Business (20 minutes)
 - a) Budget Work Session
 - b) Presentation: Compensation Analysis – Electricians
 - c) Resolution No. 879 for Approval of Salary Schedule Administrative Employees 2025, Updated September 9, 2025
9. Commissioner Reports (10 minutes)
 - a) Upcoming Per Diem Requests
Commissioner Arnett: None as of publication
Commissioner Ury: None as of publication
Commissioner Deshmane: None as of publication
10. Public Comment (10 minutes– Individual speakers: 3 minutes)
11. Executive Session: None as of Publication
12. Adjourn (Estimated 10:00 AM)

Notice:

All Commissioners will participate either via In-Person, Zoom/internet or teleconference.

The public meeting can be accessed;

By internet: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82547736407>

NOTE: IF ATTENDING VIA ZOOM WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR FULL NAME FOR THE COMMISSION RECORD THOUGH IT IS NOT REQUIRED

<p>Or telephone: Dial 1 (253) 215 8782 <u>or</u> 1 (253) 205 0468 Webinar ID: 825 4773 6407</p>

Next Commission Meetings

September 23, 2025 |8:15 a.m.| Regular Meeting

October 14, 2025 |8:15 a.m.| Regular Meeting

Meetings to be held at the District Office

1705 Trigg Road, Ferndale, WA 98248

or other location announced

Contact: Chris Heimgartner, General Manager (360) 384-4288 x 119

info@pudwhatcom.org

www.pudwhatcom.org

**Public Utility District No. 1 of Whatcom County
Commission Meeting Attendance Sheet**

Date of Meeting: August 26, 2025 Platform: Hybrid In Person Zoom

Start Time: 8:15 AM Adjourn: 10:15 AM

Adjourn to Executive Session NA if applicable

In Attendance:
Initial Please:

- AD Atul Deshmane, Commissioner
- JA Jaime Arnett, Commissioner
- EU Eddy Ury, Commissioner
- Jon Sitkin/Peter Ruffatto, Legal Counsel
- Chris Heimgartner, General Manager
- Aaron Peterson, IT/SCADA Technician
- Andrew Entrikin, Director - Broadband and New Power Supply
- Annette Smith, Finance Director
- Devin Crabtree, Chief Water Operator
- Garrett Love-Smith, Engineering Manager
- Jacob Wittmer, Automation Technician
- Jon Littlefield, Electric System Supervisor
- Joe McKenna, Project 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 & Regulatory Compliance Manager
- SH Stephanie Hooper, Accountant I

Also in Attendance:

Name/Organization	Name/Organization
<u>Robin Dexter</u>	<u>Citizen</u>
<u>Hilary Wilkerson</u>	<u>MFR</u>
<u>Todd Lagestee</u>	<u>Citizen</u>

Name (original name)	Join time	Leave time	Duration (1 Guest	Recording In waiting room
Mike M. Whatcom PUD - IT	8/26/2025 8:08	8/26/2025 10:19	131 No	OK No
Joseph Shay	8/26/2025 8:08	8/26/2025 10:18	131 No	No Respor No
Rebecca Schlotterback	8/26/2025 8:08	8/26/2025 10:18	131 No	No Respor No
Whatcom PUD	8/26/2025 8:08	8/26/2025 8:09	1 No	No Respor No
Whatcom PUD	8/26/2025 8:09	8/26/2025 10:18	130 No	No Respor No
Michael	8/26/2025 8:10	8/26/2025 10:18	129 Yes	No Respor No
Annette Smith	8/26/2025 8:13	8/26/2025 10:18	125 No	No Respor No
Kurt Wank	8/26/2025 8:14	8/26/2025 10:18	125 No	No Respor No
Aaron Peterson	8/26/2025 8:14	8/26/2025 10:18	125 No	OK No
stephanieh	8/26/2025 8:16	8/26/2025 10:18	123 Yes	No Respor No
Dave Olson	8/26/2025 8:22	8/26/2025 10:19	117 Yes	No Respor No
garrettl	8/26/2025 8:24	8/26/2025 10:18	115 Yes	No Respor No
Jon Littlefield	8/26/2025 8:50	8/26/2025 10:18	89 Yes	No Respor No

**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
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 1,491,274.99

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.

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/>

RESOLUTION NO. 879

RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF WHATCOM COUNTY (“DISTRICT”) AMENDING THE *SALARY RANGES LIST FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES*

WHEREAS, RCW 54.12.090 authorizes the Board of Commissioners of the District (“Commission”) to create positions and fix salaries; and

WHEREAS, the Commission finds it in the best interest of the District to review the compensation of employees in the Electric System as part of the employment recruitment process; and

WHEREAS, the General Manager has reviewed the positions and salary ranges of the Electric System and completed a market evaluation; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission as follows:

Effective September 16, 2025, the position titles shown on the attached *Salary Ranges List for District Administrative Employees (Exhibit A)* are hereby authorized and classified in the salary ranges shown and supersede any previous lists.

ADOPTED by the Commission of Public Utility District No.1 of Whatcom County at its regular meeting held on the 9th day of September, 2025.

**PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO.1
Of WHATCOM COUNTY**

Atul Deshmane, President/Commissioner

Jaime Arnett, Vice President/Commissioner

Eddy Ury, Secretary/Commissioner

Resolution No. 879
Exhibit A
Salary Ranges List for District Administrative Employees



**SALARY SCHEDULE
ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES 2025
Effective September 16, 2025**

Position Title	2025 Base Salary Range	
	Accountant I	56,000
Assistant General Manager	148,000	192,000
Automation Technician	88,500	115,000
Clerk of Board/Records	60,000	75,000
Director of Broadband & New Power	115,000	150,000
Director of Finance	135,000	175,000
Director of HR & Communications	126,000	164,000
Electric System Supervisor	168,000	-
Engineer	105,000	130,000
IT/SCADA Technician	81,000	105,000
IT/SCADA Technician	81,000	105,000
Mgr of Automation/Tech Serv.	129,000	168,000
Mgr of Contracts & Regulatory Compliance	98,000	127,000
Project Manager	84,500	110,000
Wireman/Substation Technician* *4% Differential Pay added when serves as Supervisor for full shift	150,000	-

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF WHATCOM COUNTY

P.O. Box 2308 | 1705 Trigg Road
 Ferndale, WA 98248-9383
 (360) 384-4288
www.pudwhatcom.org

Commissioners: Jaime Arnett, Atul Deshmane, Eddy Ury Chris Heimgartner, General Manager