

**MINUTES OF THE  
MEETING OF THE COMMISSION  
February 10, 2026**

**1. Call to Order | Pledge of Allegiance**

The 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 Eddy Ury. 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
Peter Ruffatto	General Counsel, CSD Attorneys at Law
Chris Heimgartner	General Manager
Aaron Peterson	IT/SCADA Tech
Andrew Entrikin	Director – Broadband and New Power Supply
Annette Smith	Finance Director
Devin Crabtree	Chief Water Operator
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 1

**VISITORS**

Tyler McDevitt	Phillips 66
Brian Heinrich	Puget Sound Energy
John Gevaert	Whidbey Telecom

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**ACTION:**

Commissioner Deshmane made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Arnett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**3. Approval of Consent Agenda**

**a) Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Commission Meeting of January 27, 2026 and Approval of the Claims of February 10, 2026:**

Commissioner Arnett made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Deshmane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Claims of February 10, 2026:**

AT&T MOBILITY	1,878.58
BHAM WHATCOM CHAMBER OF COMM & INDUSTRY	356.00
BIRCH EQUIPMENT COMPANY	1,016.97
BRIM TRACTOR COMPANY	1,055.11
CDW/COMPUTER DISCOUNT WAREHOUSE	735.90
CESCO NEW CONCEPT CHEMICAL PRODUCTS	117.39
CNA SURETY	399.26
COBB, FENDLEY & ASSOCIATES, INC	1,775.88
CORNERSTONE MANAGEMENT, INC.	972.00
CULLIGAN NORTHWEST	55.81
EXACT SCIENTIFIC SERVICES INC.	31.00

FERNDALDE ACE HARDWARE	54.49
GRAINGER	828.72
GUARDIAN SECURITY SYSTEMS, INC	3,408.47
HARDWARE SALES, INC .	117.71
HEALTH PROMOTIONS NORTHWEST	150.00
HERITAGE ENGINEERING GROUP	65,376.87
HOOPER, STEPHANIE	36.98
NEL/SON DISTRIBUTING DBA NELSON-REISNER	935.87
NOOKSACK SALMON ENHANCEMENT ASSOCIATION	20,000.00
NORTH COAST ELECTRIC COMPANY	472.95
NORTHWEST FIBER DBA ZIPLY FIBER	883.50
PLATT ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO	8,660.86
PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	746.63
PUD #1 OF WHATCOM COUNTY	12,119.90
PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC	1,458.81
REGENCE BLUE SHIELD	54,506.39
RICOH USA	93.42
RICOH USA FINANCIAL SVC	128.23
SSC - SANITARY SERVICE COMPANY	695.16
STERICYCLE ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS	245.54
TEAMSTER LOCAL #231	744.00
TYLER TECHNOLOGIES-INCODE	18,013.44
ULINE, INC.	1,261.45
UNITED WAY OF WHATCOM COUNTY	400.00
UTILITIES UNDERGROUND LOCATION	18.90
WASHINGTON DENTAL SERVICE	3,218.70
WASHINGTON TEAMSTERS WELFARE	14,630.00
WHATCOM JANITORIAL	1,575.00
WHISTLE WORKWEAR	308.32
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 219,484.21</b>

**4. Public Comment** – None

**5. General Manager’s Report** – Chris Heimgartner, General Manager reported on his attendance at the recent PPC meeting. He talked about several topics covered at the meeting noting that one of the major topics was transmission. Mr. Heimgartner informed the commission that the Department of Ecology would be hosting four meetings on geothermal with one of them being in Bellingham on February 19,2026 which Mr. Heimgartner plans to attend. Mr. Heimgartner stated that he plans to attend a meeting with Phillips 66 on February 17, 2026 that until this year he has not been able to attend due to scheduling conflicts with the PUD commission meetings. Mr. Heimgartner gave an update on the Ferndale/Grandview consolidation efforts. Lastly, Mr. Heimgartner introduced Lisa Moeller, Director of HR and Communications who reported on the progress made on updating the PUD’s website.

**6. Operations Report** – Kurt Wank, Assistant General Manager noted that operations is in the middle of capital project season with projects going out to bid and planning efforts underway. Mr. Wank also informed the commission that the PUD has hired a new water operator and their start date is March 2, 2026.

**7. Old Business**

**a) Broadband Update** – Andrew Entrikin, Director of Broadband and New Power Supply reported on the ongoing Point Roberts project. Mr. Entrikin then presented Action Item 1: Authorizing the General Manager to Sign an IRU Agreement Between Whidbey Telephone Company D/B/A Whidbey Telecom and Whatcom PUD. A lengthy discussion was had between commissioners and staff with the commission raising various concerns about the IRU that they wanted addressed before they would grant permission for the General Manager to sign the IRU. Commissioner Deshmane made a motion to table Action Item 1 and call a special meeting on Friday February 13, 2026 at 3:00 PM to further discuss and take action on Action Item 1. Commissioner Arnett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**b) Adjudication Update** – Peter Ruffatto, Legal Counsel reported that the courts will be ruling on a motion presented by Whatcom County to extend the filing deadline based on publication notice. The court’s decision will be made around March 16, 2026.

**c) Geothermal Update** – Andrew Entrikin, Director of Broadband and New Power Supply informed the commission that on February 17, 2026 the PUD and the Nooksack Tribe would be meeting to sign the MOU regarding the geothermal project.

**d) GM Recruitment Update** – Chris Heimgartner, General Manager reported that as of his last conversation with Lanie at Mycoff Fry Partners LLC there are 11 candidates being vetted for consideration.

**e) New Customer Update** – None

**8. New Business** - None

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

Commissioner Arnett: No non-pre-approved per diem requests, Commissioner Arnett noted she will be attending the upcoming WPUDA events online.

Commissioner Deshmane: No non-pre-approved per diem requests, Commissioner Deshmane reported on the recent theft and return of his PUD issued iPad. He also discussed his planned attendance at the upcoming WPUDA meetings.

Commissioner Ury: No non-pre-approved per diem requests. Commissioner Ury reported on his planned attendance to the upcoming WPUDA meetings. Commissioner Ury opened the floor for discussion regarding upcoming legislative issues facing the PUD. The commissioners discussed those issues. Commissioner Ury reported that he had quit his job to focus on his role as PUD Commissioner full time.

**10. Public Comment** – None


**11. Executive Session**

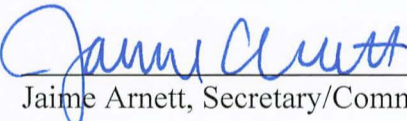
None

**12. Adjourn**

There being no further business Commissioner Ury adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

 2-24-26  
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Eddy Ury, President/Commissioner

  
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Atul Deshmane, Vice President/Commissioner

  
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Jaime Arnett, 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/>