

**MINUTES OF THE
MEETING OF THE COMMISSION
February 24, 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 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 (Arrival Time: 8:35 a.m.)	Commissioner
Sara Frase	General Counsel, CSD Attorneys at Law
Chris Heimgartner	General Manager
Aaron Peterson	IT/SCADA Tech
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 1

VISITORS

Dave Olson	Citizen
Brian Heinrich	Puget Sound Energy
Nash El-Badawi	British Petroleum (BP)

2. Approval of Agenda

ACTION:

Commissioner Arnett made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Deshmane seconded the motion. The motion passed with both present commissioners in favor. Commissioner Ury was absent from the vote due to being delayed by traffic on the interstate.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

a) Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Commission Meeting of February 10, 2026, the Special Meeting of February 13, 2026, the Special Joint Meeting of February 17, 2026 and Approval of the Claims of February 24, 2026:

Commissioner Arnett made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Deshmane seconded the motion. The motion passed with both present commissioners voting in favor. Commissioner Ury was absent from the vote due to being delayed by traffic on the interstate.

Claims of February 24, 2026:

ARBITRAGE GROUP INC.	2,750.00
ASTOUND BUSINESS SOLUTIONS	555.85
BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION	776,166.00
CENTRAL WELDING SUPPLY	110.91
CERTERRA NORTHWEST LLC	1,886.90
CHMELIK SITKIN & DAVIS	19,630.00
CLEARING UP: NEWSDATA SERVICE	1,934.75
COMCAST	330.37
CRABTREE, DEVIN	117.94
CULLIGAN NORTHWEST	199.85
DESHMANE, ATUL	793.00

ESCAPE VELOCITY HOLDING INC DBA TRACE3	87,856.81
ESRI	2,806.75
EUROFINS ENVIRONMENT TESTING	26.00
FASTENAL	429.82
FERNDALE ACE HARDWARE	106.80
HACKER, RONALD G	500.98
HARDWARE SALES, INC .	578.22
HDR ENGINEERING, INC.	22,345.82
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	27,530.29
MASSMUTUAL RETIREMENT SVCS LLC	14,510.00
NEL/SON DISTRIBUTING DBA NELSON-REISNER	461.67
NORTHWEST CASCADE, INC.	165.50
NW PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION	825.00
P&P EXCAVATING, LLC	12,920.00
PAYLOCITY	829.10
PAYROLL	287,352.44
PERRY PALLET	20.00
PLATT ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO	485.55
PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC	7,975.43
SALISH CONSTRUCTION COMPANY	6,447.00
SCHWEITZER ENGINEERING LABS	12,016.39
STAR RENTALS	1,708.88
WA FEDERAL VISA CARD MEMBER SERVICES	5,810.10
WA ST DEPT OF REV PRIVLGE	258,352.16
WA ST DEPT OF REVENUE - EXCISE TAX	117,377.83
WASHINGTON ALARM, INC.	215.36
WHATCOM COUNTY DEPT OF HEALTH	64.68
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 1,674,194.15

NOTE: The General Manager’s Report, Operations Report and Adjudication Report were all moved ahead of the Broadband Report in the agenda to allow for Commissioner Ury to be present for the remaining actionable items on the agenda. Commissioner Ury arrived to the meeting after the Adjudication Report. Commissioner Ury informed the meeting that he had been following along via YouTube on his drive in.

4. Public Comment – None

5. General Manager’s Report – Chris Heimgartner, General Manager noted that his report would be covered under the broadband update section of the meeting and during the executive session at the end of the meeting.

6. Operations Report – Kurt Wank, Assistant General Manager noted that the Plant 2 Intake Facility is currently being scoured to remove dirt from the intake wells in preparation for pump maintenance work on the facility. Mr. Wank also reported that British Petroleum will be doing a hydro test where they fill one of their tanks with water to do a structural evaluation on it to check for leaks etc. Mr. Wank noted that this hydro test would consume a substantial bit of water and that our operations crew would be monitoring the PUD’s systems during the hydro testing.

7. Old Business

a) Broadband Update – Chris Heimgartner, General Manager reported on the ongoing Point Roberts project and noted that Whidbey Telecom had accepted the changes to the IRU proposed by the Commission at the February 13, 2026 Special Commission Meeting. Having noted Whidbey Telecom’s acceptance of the proposed changes, Mr. Heimgartner suggested the commission approve Action Item No. 1 on the agenda. Commissioner Arnett made a motion to approve Action 1: Authorize the General Manager to Sign the updated IRU Agreement Between Whidbey Telephone Company D/B/A Whidbey Telecom and Whatcom PUD. Commissioner Deshmane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. General Manager, Heimgartner then discussed the history of the Point Roberts project with the Commissioners and discussed some of the potential pitfalls that still exist for the project. The Commissioners each stated their intent to see this project through to completion. Per the General Manager’s

suggestion, the Commissioners decided to dedicate a block of time of approximately 30 minutes at the next commission meeting to further discuss the developments in the Point Roberts Project in depth and to discuss what can be done to ensure the project's completion.

b) Adjudication Update – Sara Frase, Legal Counsel reported that the courts still have yet to make a decision on the proposed motion by Whatcom County to move the claim filing deadline further down the calendar. Once that decision is made the PUD can move forward with filing its claim.

c) Geothermal Update – Chris Heimgartner, General Manager reported on the Special Joint Meeting between the Whatcom PUD Commission and the Nooksack Tribal Council that was held on February 17, 2026. The General Manager note that the meeting and signing of the Geothermal MOU was an incredibly positive experience and that there would be more meetings with the Nooksack Tribal Council going forward.

d) GM Recruitment Update – Chris Heimgartner, General Manager noted that this update would be done in executive Session.

e) New Customer Update – None

8. New Business

a) Chris Heimgartner presented Action Item No. 2 to the commission. Commissioner Arnett made a motion to approve Action Time No. 2 on the agenda Authorizing the General Manager to Sign an Engagement Letter with Pacifica Law Group to Serve as The PUD's Bond Counsel. Commissioner Deshmane seconded the motion and the item passed unanimously.

b) General Manager, Chris Heimgartner and Assistant Manager, Kurt Wank presented Action Item No. 3 to the commission. Commissioner Arnett made a motion to approve Action Item No. 3 to Approve a Standard Professional Consulting Services Agreement with Trace3 (Cyber Security Related Services). Commissioner Ury seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

c) Stephanie Hooper, Accountant presented Resolution No. 894: to the commission. Commissioner Deshmane made a motion to approve Resolution No. 894 Authorizing the Cancellation of Warrants No. 01269670 & No. 01271405 And Reissuance of Warrant No. 01271405 to HDR Engineering Inc. Commissioner Arnett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Commission Reports/Per Diem Requests:

Commissioner Arnett: No non-pre-approved per diem requests, Commissioner Arnett reported on the WPUA meeting she attended online and said she was sorry that she was unavailable to attend the special joint meeting.

Commissioner Deshmane: No non-pre-approved per diem requests, Commissioner Deshmane reported on the WPUA meeting he attended. Commissioner Deshmane noted that he will be attending the PPC meetings on March 5th and 6th, 2026 remotely.

Commissioner Ury: No non-pre-approved per diem requests. Commissioner Ury reported on the WPUA meetings he attended. Commissioner Ury noted that there will be a Department of Ecology workshop in Whatcom County regarding geothermal on February 26, 2026 that he is planning to attend.

10. Public Comment – None

11. Executive Session

Commissioner Ury made the following announcements: Executive session was convened at 9:25 AM to discuss the following subjects:

- Qualifications of an applicant for public employment (RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)).

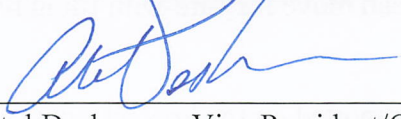
The executive session was expected to last 90 minutes and conclude at 10:55 AM. Commissioner Ury announced that the executive session had concluded at 10:55 AM at which point he resumed the regular meeting.

12. Adjourn

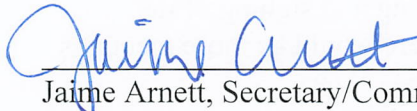
There being no further business Commissioner Ury adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

 3-10-26

Eddy Ury, President/Commissioner



Atul Deshmane, Vice President/Commissioner



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/>