

**MINUTES OF THE  
MEETING OF THE COMMISSION  
March 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 AM 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
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 1

**VISITORS**

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

**2. Approval of Agenda:**

**ACTION:**

Chris Heimgartner, General Manager noted the length of time proposed on the agenda for the executive session would be much larger than needed. He proposed amending the time to 30 minutes. Commissioner Arnett made a motion to approve the agenda with the revision to the estimated time of the executive session proposed by the General Manager. Commissioner Deshmane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**3. Approval of Consent Agenda:**

**a) Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Commission Meeting of February 24, 2026, the Special Meeting of March 6, 2026, and Approval of the Claims of March 10, 2026:**

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

**Claims of March 10, 2026:**

ALUMICHEM CANADA INC (formerly WATERHOUSE ENV.)	69,108.00
ASTOUND BUSINESS SOLUTIONS	555.85
AT&T MOBILITY	1,889.09
BAKER SEPTIC TANK PUMPING	609.28
BELLINGHAM LOCK & SAFE, INC	257.48
BIRCH EQUIPMENT COMPANY	1,888.52
CDW/COMPUTER DISCOUNT WAREHOUSE	2,074.71
CENTRAL WELDING SUPPLY	110.91
CESCO NEW CONCEPT CHEMICAL PRODUCTS	182.09
CONNER, ERIC	141.44

CORNERSTONE MANAGEMENT, INC.	863.25
CULLIGAN NORTHWEST	55.81
EMERSON LLLP	1,405.51
FERNDALE ACE HARDWARE	35.26
FERNDALE CITY OF	336.99
FOSTER GARVEY PC	32,764.00
GRUNDFOS CBS/PACO PUMPS	9,258.88
HEALTH PROMOTIONS NORTHWEST	150.00
HEIMGARTNER, CHRIS	312.77
HERITAGE ENGINEERING GROUP	159,456.60
HOOPER, STEPHANIE	39.15
MERIT EMERGENCY EDUCATION & TRAINING	1,635.00
MYCOFF FRY PARTNERS LLC	25,000.00
NEL/SON DISTRIBUTING DBA NELSON-REISNER	1,224.65
NORTH COAST ELECTRIC COMPANY	1,853.41
NORTHWEST CASCADE, INC.	172.00
P&P EXCAVATING, LLC	23,930.56
PITNEY BOWES GLOBAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LLC	201.92
PLATT ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO	103.55
PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	774.13
PUD #1 OF WHATCOM COUNTY	9,129.72
PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC	18,389.76
REGENCE BLUE SHIELD	54,506.39
RICOH USA FINANCIAL SVC	256.46
SSC - SANITARY SERVICE COMPANY	717.36
STERICYCLE ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS	132.18
TEAMSTER LOCAL #231	767.00
TOTH AND ASSOCIATES, INC	13,848.75
ULINE, INC.	693.34
UNITED WAY OF WHATCOM COUNTY	400.00
UTILITIES UNDERGROUND LOCATION	13.80
WASHINGTON DENTAL SERVICE	3,218.70
WASHINGTON TEAMSTERS WELFARE	20,900.00
WHATCOM COUNTY TREASURER	851.41
WHATCOM JANITORIAL	1,575.00
WIN-911	1,523.20
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 463,313.88</b>

**4. Public Comment:**

None

**5. General Manager's Report:**

Chris Heimgartner, General Manager reported on his attendance at the PPC meeting and the discussions had at that meeting regarding Markets Plus. Mr. Heimgartner also noted that the WPUDA annual meeting would be in May and expressed his interest in attending that meeting.

**6. Operations Report:**

Kurt Wank, Assistant General Manager reported on an incident that occurred on March 3, 2026 in which the communication line between plants 1 and 2 went down due to environmental factors. A declaration of emergency was called to allow for hiring of a contractor without the bidding process to attend to the damaged cable. The repair is scheduled for the week of March 16, 2026.

**7. Old Business:**

**a) Broadband Update** – Andrew Entrikin, Director of Broadband and New Power Supply gave an update to the commission on the status of the Point Roberts Project. Mr. Entrikin gave background and history of the project. He noted that the restriction of no ground disturbing activity in the area has led to multiple redesigns of the project, including significant downsizing of the size and scope. The commission was advised that ongoing significant challenges may put an end to the project. Commissioners and staff discussed possible alternative ways to get broadband access to the residents of Point Roberts.

**b) Adjudication Update** – Peter Ruffatto, Legal Counsel reported the courts have granted Whatcom County’s request to extend the filing deadline. Mr. Ruffatto noted there will be an executive session at the March 24, 2026 commission meeting to review the impacts of this decision on the PUD and what the next steps moving forward will be. Mr. Ruffatto also reported Matt Wells has been appointed to the adjudication steering committee to fill the seat left by Jon Sitkin upon his retirement.

**c) Geothermal Update** – None.

**e) New Customer Update** – Chris Heimgartner, General Manager deferred discussion on the new customer update to be part of the discussion of action item No. 1.

**8. New Business:**

a) Chris Heimgartner, General Manager gave a report to the commission about upgrades being done at the Grandview Easement property. The first major improvement will be to install permanent fencing at the location. Mr. Heimgartner informed the commission a bid has already been sent out and returned for this work to be done. The total for the bid was within the general manager’s delegation of authority to award the contract without commission approval but he wanted to inform the commission about the contract. The total amount was very close to the threshold for needing commission approval and Mr. Heimgartner felt the commission should be informed.

b) The commission brought forth for consideration action item No. 1 to approve a letter of agreement for cost reimbursement by Petrogas Pacific LLC for Whatcom PUD expenses associated with the Cherry Point 1 substation and direct the General Manager to sign the letter. Commissioner Ury opened the floor for questions and clarification. Commissioner Ury asked several questions about the letter of agreement and also voiced concerns related it. After much discussion and clarification Commissioner Deshmane made a motion to approve a letter agreement for cost reimbursement by Petrogas Pacific LLC for Whatcom PUD expenses associated with the Cherry Point 1 substation and direct the General Manager to sign the letter. 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 she will be attending WPUDA meetings virtually next week.

Commissioner Deshmane: No non-pre-approved per diem requests, Commissioner Deshmane reported he will be attending WPUDA meetings virtually next week as well as attending the upcoming Point Roberts Advisory Committee meeting.

Commissioner Ury: No non-pre-approved per diem requests. Commissioner Ury reported he will be attending WPUDA meetings next week virtually. Mr. Ury also reported he will be attending the upcoming Whatcom Council of Governments meeting.

**10. Public Comment:**

Brian Heinrich from Puget Sound Energy stated he would like to schedule a future meeting with the PUD commissioners to discuss the costs of providing power.

**11. Executive Session:**

Commissioner Ury made the following announcements: The regular commission meeting was recessed at 10:41 AM The executive session was convened at 10:45 AM (allowing for a 4-minute break) to discuss the following subjects:

- Evaluate Qualifications of Applicant for Public Employment for the General Manager position RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)

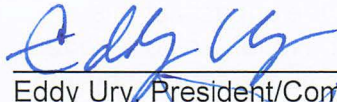
The executive session was expected to last 30 minutes and conclude at 11:15 AM. The executive session was extended 20 minutes to conclude at 11:35 AM. Commissioner Ury announced that the executive session had concluded at 11:34 AM at which point he resumed the regular meeting.

**12. Consideration of Next Steps in GM Recruitment Process:**

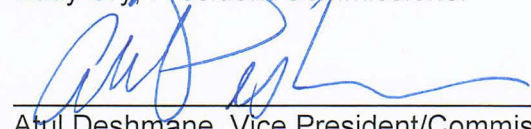
Lisa Moeller, Director of HR and Communications summarized the discussion from executive session and made a recommendation that the commission invite candidates Vanessa Barbarisi and Anthony Hardenbrook to a special commission meeting to be held on March 19, 2026 for further evaluation. Commissioner Deshmane made a motion to invite Vanessa Barbarisi and Anthony Hardenbrook as the candidates for the general manager position to a special meeting on March 19, 2026. Commissioner Arnett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**13. Adjourn:**

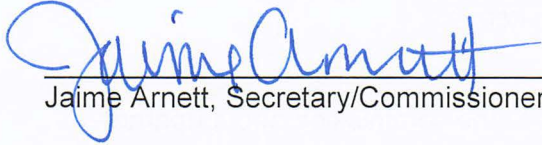
There being no further business Commissioner Ury adjourned the meeting at 11:49 AM



\_\_\_\_\_  
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/>