

April 1, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of PUD No. One of Wahkiakum County, Washington was held on the above date with Board President Robert Jungers presiding. Also in attendance were Board Vice President Dennis Reid, Board Secretary Eugene Healy, Manager Dan Kay, Director of Finance Erin Wilson, Director of Finance Shelby Garrett, Attorney Tim Hanigan, Secretary Katie Thomas, Town Councilpersons Laurel Waller and Jeanne Hendrickson, County resident Jason Will, and PUD employees Bruce McClain and Bryce Heiner.

The meeting convened at 8:30 a.m.

### **ROLL CALL:**

The general public attended by Zoom teleconference.

Manager Kay introduced new employees Shelby Garrett and Bryce Heiner. Discussion ensued.

PUD employees Bruce McClain and Bryce Heiner exited the meeting at 8:33 a.m.

### **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Reid moved to approve the agenda as submitted and Commissioner Healy seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Commissioner Healy moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 18, 2025, and Commissioner Reid seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

### **APPROVAL OF FINANCES**

With regard to the following electric and water vouchers submitted by Director of Finance Erin Wilson, Commissioner Reid moved to approve the electric and water vouchers as submitted and Commissioner Healy seconded. Commissioner Reid commented they had time to review the vouchers before the meeting and were ready to vote. The motion passed 3-0.

**Total Vouchers Approved:                \$197,876.17**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Jason Will commented he received the customer information bulletin regarding the energy use percentage breakdown, and asked what “unspecified” meant. Discussion ensued.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION:**

Commissioner Jungers commented the State of Utah just passed a law forbidding adding fluoride to public water systems. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Jungers commented he received notification from Energy Northwest that DOGE has directed the dismissal of hundreds of employees at BPA; however, BPA is self-sustaining and self-funding. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Jungers commented the media is giving the breaching of the dams on the Klamath River positive reporting, which could weigh heavily on the breach of the Snake River dams. Discussion ensued.

Town Councilperson Robert Stowe entered the meeting via Zoom at 8:44 a.m.

## **DISCUSSION TOPIC:**

### **Long Range Planning**

Manager Kay had no report at that time.

## **REPORTS:**

### **Manager Kay:**

Manager Kay reported the test results from the Puget Island Water System showed the expected levels of iron and manganese. The minerals will have to be made insoluble in order to filter and remove from the water. Discussion ensued regarding flow rate, water quality, the final water rights application, and funding for water treatment and pump facilities.

Manager Kay reported the Skamokawa mainline extension from the Duck Inn to the east Skamokawa city limits is in process. The PUD was awarded a \$50,000.00 grant to cover the connection fees. Discussion ensued.

Manager Kay reported there have been no power outages reported for a few weeks, crews are out on new customer hookups this morning, and the water crew is training a new employee.

Manager Kay reported the legislature is three-quarters through the long session. Discussion ensued regarding the state budget, potential tax increases, and funds in the state public works account.

Manager Kay reported he will attend PPC this week and the Town Council meeting next week.

**Director of Finance Wilson:**

Director of Finance Erin Wilson provided a brief description of the District's deferred compensation option for employee contributions. She suggested adding a second option for deferred compensation offered through the State of Washington Department of Retirement Systems (DRS). Discussion ensued. A resolution will be presented at the April 15, 2025 meeting to add the DRS option for employees.

Director of Finance Erin Wilson reported that the District's financial reserves level is within \$100,000 of the average balance over the past 15 months. It was requested that Wilson report to the Board quarterly on the level of financial reserves with thoughts regarding financial viability and rate impacts. No action is recommended at this time. Discussion ensued.

**Commissioner Healy:**

Commissioner Healy reported he attended the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments (COG) meeting. The main presentation pertained to Kaiser not offering group plans to COG in Wahkiakum County. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Healy reported he will attend PPC this week via Zoom.

**Commissioner Reid:**

Commissioner Reid reported he attended the WPUDA meetings last week and updated the Board on the changes to the legislative bills. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Jungers reported Energy Northwest will be moving forward with building the small modular reactors (SMR) in Richland and incremental approvals will be needed. Discussion ensued. The Board unanimously agreed to support Commissioner Jungers in voting for the SMR at the Energy Northwest meetings.

**Commissioner Jungers:**

Commissioner Jungers had no report at that time.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Jason Will asked the Commissioners questions regarding the water connection fees and if his water bill will go down because of all the grant funds. He also requested a copy of the water test report. Discussion ensued. Mr. Will will confer with Manager Kay outside of the meeting.

Jason Will mentioned there is a tree leaning on transmission lines and a CenturyLink transmission box near the Lutheran Church on the island. Manager Kay will investigate the area.

Jason Will asked why Kaiser couldn't offer group plans in Wahkiakum County through COG. Discussion ensued.

Town Councilperson Laurel Waller asked Commissioner Healy when he would like to meet, and he suggested after the next town meeting.

**ADJORNMENT:**

The regular meeting was adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

The next regular meeting is April 15, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. in the PUD Meeting Room.

Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of April 1, 2025.

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**Robert Jungers**, President

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**Dennis Reid**, Vice President

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**Eugene Healy**, Secretary