

July 5, 2022

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, General Manager Daniel Kay, Auditor Erin Wilson, Attorney Tim Hanigan, Secretary Katie Thomas, Wahkiakum West President Ken Johnson, Wahkiakum West employee Carol Larson, and Steve Carson.

The meeting convened at 8:30 a.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Mayor David Olson, Town Councilman Robert Stowe, Wahkiakum Eagle Newspaper Reporter Diana Zimmerman, and the general public attended by Zoom teleconference.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Healy made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on June 21, 2022 as submitted and Commissioner Reid seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

**APPROVAL OF FINANCES:**

With regard to the following electric and water vouchers submitted by Auditor Erin Wilson, Commissioner Reid made a motion to approve the vouchers for electric and water as submitted. Commissioner Healy seconded the motion. Commissioner Reid commented the commissioners had ample time to review the vouchers and were ready to approve. The motion passed 3-0.

Total Vouchers Approved:         \$ 178,816.98

**PRESENTATION – KEN JOHNSON – WAHKIAKUM WEST –Update on Broadband Expansion Project**

Wahkiakum West President Ken Johnson provided an update on the Broadband Expansion Project. They are approximately 60 days behind schedule due to unforeseen issues like dense rock and traffic control issues along SR 4. The strand and fiber has been attached to the poles along SR 4, and a contractor is needed to install the meter at Vista. They are working on getting Skamokawa energized and getting permits for Middle and East Valley roads. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Johnson thanked NoaNet for allowing access to their network assets and access leases on equipment.

Ken Johnson, Carol Larson, and Steve Carson exited the meeting at 8:49 a.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mayor David Olson thanked the PUD for their partnership on the WiFi system and its successful launch. He also appreciates working with Wahkiakum West to provide better broadband throughout the county. Discussion ensued regarding the renaming of the town WiFi to Cathlamet Public WiFi.

**DISCUSSION TOPIC:**

**Long Range Planning**

Manager Kay stated he is working on assessing those positions that will come open due to retirement, and he is building and revising job descriptions with Auditor Wilson. He is also working on fleet assessment; small bucket truck #60 was taken to Astoria Ford for diagnostics where it was determined the engine is a total loss. He has explored several options, including leasing a truck, and concluded that installing a new engine is the most appropriate route. A new engine, with installation, is approximately \$18,000.00. Discussion ensued.

**REPORTS:**

***Manager Kay:***

Manager Kay discussed the contract high water mark and buffer usage, integration of non-federal resources, and future BPA contract and rates.

Manager Kay stated Mike Johnson from Gray & Osborne would have been here this week but he is on vacation and expected to attend the next meeting to report on the hydrogeology report and Western Wahkiakum feasibility study.

Manager Kay is still investigating vegetation management grants. There are grants available for invasive species but nothing specific the PUD would qualify for.

Manager Kay reported crews are taking advantage of drier weather to trim trees and replace poles that are typically in areas too wet to work in.

Manager Kay reported crews are finishing up the pipe replacement on Covered Bridge Road.

Manager Kay reported 112 utilities requested \$260 million for arrearage relief; there is only \$100 million available. Discussion ensued.

Manager Kay is continuing to look for available grants and coordinate with county commissioners to partner with on as many projects as possible.

Manager Kay will attend the WPUDA meetings in Wenatchee next week with Commissioner Reid.

***Auditor Wilson:***

Auditor Wilson had no report at that time.

***Commissioner Healy:***

Commissioner Healy reported he attended or will attend the following meetings:

June 23-PPC readout with Blake Weathers

July 5-Town Council meeting via Zoom

***Commissioner Reid:***

Commissioner Reid reported he will attend the WPUDA meeting in Wenatchee next week.

Commissioner Reid reported he attended the WPUDA Water Committee meeting on June 23 via Zoom.

***Commissioner Jungers:***

Commissioner Jungers reported he tried to attend the Cathlamet WiFi meeting, but was notified late that the meeting had been cancelled.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at that time.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**NW River Partners Membership - Vote**

Commissioner Healy moved to approve membership in NW River Partners and Commissioner Reid seconded. Commissioner Reid commented that some people will be upset at joining, but as a board, they need to look out for what is best for the PUD and the ratepayers. Commissioner Healy commented that he is in favor of this membership to help level the playing field a little bit and have the side of retaining the dams heard

equally. Discussion ensued. There was no public comment at that time. The motion passed 3-0.

### **BPA – Blue Wolf Letter – Signatures Needed**

Manager Kay stated Blue Wolf is a private equity firm trying to restart the Intalco smelter. The BPA contract ran out in 2019 and PPC has requested the PUD write a letter opposing Blue Wolf. There was a consensus among the board members in support of the letter, and Commissioner Jungers will sign it before he leaves the meeting.

### **MEETINGS & TRAVEL APPROVAL REQUIRED:**

Commissioner Reid moved to approve travel for Auditor Wilson to attend the Finance Officers Association Annual Conference in Tacoma on September 13-16, 2022. Commissioner Healy seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Healy commented the Snake River Dams are creatures of Congress and, as such, will require an act of Congress to remove them. Replacing the megawatts that will be lost with the removal of the dams will also require an act of Congress. Discussion ensued.

Town Councilman Robert Stowe commented that he has seen and heard commercials for leaving or removal of the dams and asked how serious is the issue. Discussion ensued regarding the driving force behind removal of the dams and the potential effect on Wahkiakum County rates.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of July 5, 2022.

---

**Robert Jungers**, President

---

**Dennis Reid**, Vice President

---

**Eugene Healy**, Secretary