

June 21, 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, Auditor Erin Wilson, Attorney Tim Hanigan, Secretary Katie Thomas, and Secretary Desiree Conroy.

The meeting convened at 8:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

General Manager Daniel Kay, Wahkiakum Eagle Newspaper Reporter Diana Zimmerman, Steve Carson, and the general public attended by Zoom teleconference.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Reid moved to approve the agenda with the addition of a discussion topic regarding BPA and the potential restart of the Intalco smelter, and Commissioner Healy seconded the motion. 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 they had ample time to review the vouchers and were ready to approve. The motion passed 3-0.

Total Vouchers Approved: \$ 175,702.79

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Healy made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on June 7, 2022 as submitted and Commissioner Reid seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment at that time.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Commissioner Reid stated he received an email from Ken Johnson at Western Wahkiakum Telephone requesting to attend an upcoming meeting to update the commissioners on broadband progress. Manager Kay will respond to Mr. Johnson's email and invite him to the next meeting on July 5.

DISCUSSION TOPIC:

Long Range Planning

Manager Kay reported he is currently working on financial planning and succession planning with Auditor Wilson. They are also assessing the skill sets and institutional knowledge of current employees in preparation of upcoming retirements in the next few years.

Northwest River Partners Membership

Commissioner Reid reported he has been approached by three members of the commercial fishing community regarding this topic. One person was against any communication the PUD may have with Northwest River Partners, and two people were fully supportive of leaving the Snake River dams in place. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Healy made a motion to approve membership with Northwest River Partners and Commissioner Reid seconded. Commissioner Healy commented the other side of the issue has high governmental support, and his primary reason to approve membership was to assure equal dialog on this important issue. Discussion ensued regarding other potential issues that could result from the dams' removal, including additional trucks on the road, loss of irrigation, and recreational impacts.

Commissioner Reid made a motion to table the discussion topic until the next regular meeting to allow time for public comment and add it as an action item to the next agenda. Commissioner Healy seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

BPA Intalco Smelter

Manager Kay stated the PPC has recently sent a request to the PUD to write a letter opposing BPA entering into a direct service contract with the private equity firm Blue Wolf. Discussion ensued. Manager Kay suggested the letter be drafted using the talking points provided by PPC and have it ready to be signed as an action item at the next meeting.

REPORTS:

Manager Kay:

Manager Kay reported he attended a PPC meeting regarding post-2028 discussions in Portland last week. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Healy offered handouts from the meeting.

Manager Kay reported the Puget Island system improvement project is on the list of grants waiting for Appropriations' Committee approval.

Manager Kay reported he is working with Bill Fashing from Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments and Commissioner Healy on grant projects for infrastructure.

Manager Kay reported he is continuing to look for water infrastructure and cybersecurity IT upgrade grants.

Manager Kay reported the Gray & Osborne hydrogeology report came in late yesterday and he will meet with Mike Johnson to discuss the results. Mike will provide a formal update to the commissioners via Zoom at the second meeting in July.

Manager Kay reported the Cathlamet public Wi-Fi is operational. He attended the ribbon cutting on June 9. Discussion ensued.

Manager Kay reported the water crew is replacing 700' of PVC with HDPE along Covered Bridge Road. They are using directional boring as the water table is too high for an open ditch.

Manager Kay reported the electric crew is continuing to connect new services, mostly in established subdivisions. There have been 51 new service applications so far this year, including overhead to underground conversions.

Manager Kay reported only three recent power outages, one of which was at 4:30 p.m. last night due to a suspected bird or critter in the power line outside the Grays River substation and knocking out power to customers in Rosburg.

Manager Kay reported a growing concern with supply chain issues and a declining inventory.

Manager Kay reported the small bucket truck replacement was ordered in early 2021 but is not expected until December of this year or later. The current truck is in for repairs.

Manager Kay provided an update on the fiber being installed by Western Wahkiakum Telephone. They are progressing along SR 4 and installing fiber on existing poles for distribution to customers. East Valley Road and Middle Valley Road are next.

Manager Kay reported the Department of Health is offering free PFAS testing kits. There is no suspected issue.

Commissioner Healy asked if there was a grant for vegetation management. Manager Kay has not heard of one but will research it. Discussion ensued.

Auditor Wilson:

Auditor Wilson reported the journal entries have been reviewed by the CPA. She also discussed GAS-B standards with the CPA.

Auditor Wilson reported she met with Manager Kay and the software vendor to discuss upgrades to the system.

Auditor Wilson reported a new employee handbook has been drafted.

Auditor Wilson reported she is working with Manager Kay on cybersecurity to make sure the system is meeting insurer standards.

Auditor Wilson reported there will be a staff meeting June 28. The lobby will be closed during the meeting.

Commissioner Jungers asked Manager Kay if there was any progress in acquiring a CAD program to map the water system. Manager Kay is still looking at options. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Healy:

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

June 15-Attended PPC post-2028 workshop regarding system size allocation and augmentation

June 17-Attended PPC elected-officials quarterly forum regarding the Lower Snake River Dams and markets.

June 21-Town Council

June 23-PPC and NWRP presentation on Lower Snake River Dams

Commissioner Reid:

Commissioner Reid reported he attended the WPUDA quarterly water meeting via Zoom on May 23.

Commissioner Jungers:

Commissioner Jungers reported he attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting last Wednesday where their new hire Melissa was introduced.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at that time.

MEETINGS & TRAVEL APPROVAL REQUIRED:

Commissioner Reid made a motion to approve travel for Manager Kay to attend the WPUDA General Manager and Association Meetings in Wenatchee on July 13 and 14, 2022. Commissioner Healy seconded. Commissioner Reid stated he will also attend the meeting but will be unable to travel with the manager. The motion passed 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of June 21, 2022.

Robert Jungers, President

Dennis Reid, Vice President

Eugene Healy, Secretary