

March 21, 2023

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 Dennis Reid presiding. Also in attendance were Board Vice President Eugene Healy, Board Secretary Robert Jungers, Auditor Erin Wilson, Attorney Tim Hanigan, Secretary Desiree Conroy, WPUA Vice President Dave Mckenzie, WPUA Deputy Executive Director Liz Anderson, WPUA Senior Policy Analyst Specialist Stefany Zelepuza, and Jim Jespersen from the Water Department.

The meeting convened at 8:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

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 Jungers 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 March 7, 2023 as submitted and Commissioner Jungers seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

APPROVAL OF FINANCES:

With regard to the following electric and water vouchers submitted by Auditor Erin Wilson, Commissioner Jungers made a motion to approve the vouchers for electric and water as submitted. Commissioner Healy seconded the motion. Reid commented they had ample opportunity to review the vouchers prior to the meeting. The motion passed 3-0.

Total Vouchers Approved: \$253,151.65

PRESENTATION:

WPUA Deputy Executive Director Liz Anderson stated that everything on the screen can be found on the WPUA website.

WPUA Vice President Dave Mckenzie introduced himself stating he is a PUD Commissioner out of Skamania County. He began to explain the reason for their appearance stating they feel the need to introduce / re-introduce themselves after the last few years of only being able to do Zoom meetings.

WPUDA Vice President Dave Mckenzie explained that there is a lot that happens at the Capitol and the staff at WPUDA do an amazing job regarding finding bills that interest and help us. Discussion ensued.

WPUDA Deputy Executive Director Liz Anderson commented that they noticed a lot of new faces once they started visiting PUDs again, adding that this was a great time to get them acquainted with WPUDA. She commented that it is great to see the different communities and how they work.

WPUDA Deputy Executive Director Liz Anderson begins the presentation with our history – PUDs history started in 1936, 6 years after initiative 1 passed. The Washington State Grange Master stated they were handing over the reins and giving communities the option to own their own PUD. Discussion ensued.

WPUDA Deputy Executive Director Liz Anderson goes on to explain the different ways WPUDA can help local PUDs. She explains that WPUDA offers policy committees – these help with a deeper dive as to what is offered. Other committees help with information trainings, new commissioner series training, along with strategic planning every year that is put on by the board of directors. A manager committee that meets four times a year, round table events that are held twice a year. These events help get the different PUD employees together to learn and get helpful training. Our meeting schedule is almost monthly. When you send your staff to these meetings, those committees receive a voice from every PUD. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Reid added that the staff members who attend are a source of training for the commissioners. They bring ideas to these trainings that commissioners aren't too aware of. They can put some great information out there.

WPUDA Senior Policy Specialist Stefany Zelepuza is here to talk about policies. WPUDA is trying to keep all PUDs connected with policy making. Stefany explains that she works on telecom and water policy. She goes on to give an example. The dedicated funding pool sometimes will give grants, these grants enable you to invest in infrastructure. Last year the legislature gave a last-minute move to fund transportation. That is set to start in 2024 costing \$100,000,000.00 every year. We joined forces with other agencies and public works forces and were able to defend this knowing it could be harmful. We were able to bring the cost down to \$57,000,000.00 a year. Discussion ensued.

WPUDA Deputy Executive Director Liz Anderson commented that a lot of people aren't familiar with our surveys. Every bill that goes to legislature we do a survey on, we analyze that survey and form a report for you. We have a library full of information because of these reports. Usually when someone calls looking for something we already have it.

Auditor Wilson commented that she accesses the surveys a lot.

WPUDA Deputy Executive Director Liz Anderson ended the presentation giving a big thank you to Wahkiakum PUD. Adding that WPUDA would love to hear if there is something we can do to better assist your community. Discussion ensued.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None at this time.

OPEN DISCUSSION

None at this time.

DISCUSSION TOPIC:

Long Range Planning

None at this time.

2022 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project and Funding for Grays River Mainline Replacement along SR 4

Auditor Wilson reported the District has been awarded a funding opportunity through the Department of Health and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for a mainline replacement project that has been identified in the Western Wahkiakum Water System Plan. The project will replace approximately 4,000 feet of pipe and will be completed in 2023 using contracted labor. The project cost is estimated at \$989,000 with 84% loan forgiveness. The District will provide the approximate \$158,000 matching funds.

Commissioner Jungers asked what type of pipe will be used. Jim Jespersen responded that HDPE pipe will be used for the project. He added that it will be a great project to have completed.

REPORTS:

Manager Kay:

Auditor Wilson shared Manager Kay's report. Manager Kay wishes to express his appreciation to WPUDA President McKenzie, Liz Anderson and Stefany Zelepuza for their visit and is sorry he was not able to be in attendance.

Manager Kay has been busy applying for and managing funding opportunities and appreciates the assistance he has had from PUD staff. The District has been awarded a Department of Health grant for a water main looping project on Puget Island. The project will be 60% grant funded with the District providing the matching 40% funds, the project is in the 2023 budget. The project will be completed using in-house labor.

Manager Kay recently submitted an application for funding for an alternate water source on Puget Island.

The Electric crew has been busy replacing poles. The water crew has been busy with valve maintenance.

Auditor Wilson has been working with contract details with the contractor that was awarded the tree trimming and vegetation management contract. Work is tentatively scheduled to begin the week of June 5th.

Supply chain issues continue to be in an issue.

Auditor Wilson:

Auditor Wilson reported she has been working with Manager Kay on grant opportunities.

The PUD has been notified that a CETA audit is underway by the State Auditor's office. The PUD is still waiting to find out the extent of the audit. Tom Bernard from SAO said they will begin with what has already been reported to the Department of Commerce.

Commissioner Jungers:

None at this time.

Commissioner Healy:

Commissioner Healy reported that he attended the Broad Band committee on March 15th. He will report on the PPC education system for elected officials that he will be attending via Zoom.

Commissioner Reid:

Commissioner Reid reported that next week there will be a hybrid quarterly water meeting that he will attend via Zoom.

Last week there was a monthly WPUDA meeting online, he did not attend the commissioner education portion. He reported that 63 turbines produced 96 megawatts of power. Those turbines are only 31% effective and the wind provides 8.1% of Washington power.

The Telecom committee talked about funds possibly coming in the budget for new polls. House bill 1793 didn't pass, it might come up later, explaining that this bill would add a \$2.00 excise tax fee for purchases over \$250.00 dollars on certain wireless devices. The excise tax fee would be for digital equity grants.

The heat shutoff bill has a lot of concern because of the ambiguities including not being clear on the triggers regarding shutoff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

ACTION ITEMS

Acceptance of the 2023 Drinking water state revolving fund

Commissioner Reid entertained a motion to accept the 2023 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. Commissioner Jungers moved to accept the motion as submitted and Commissioner Healy seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

The next regular meeting is April 4, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in the PUD meeting room.

Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of March 21, 2023.

Dennis Reid, President

Eugene Healy, Vice President

Robert Jungers, Secretary