

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR
MEETING OF THE COMMISSION**

April 11, 2023

1. Call to Order | Pledge of Allegiance

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Whatcom County was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by Commissioner Atul Deshmane. Said meeting was open to the public and notice thereof had been given as required by law. Those present included: Commissioner Christine Grant, Commissioner Jaime Arnett; Commissioner Atul Deshmane; and Legal Counsel Jon Sitkin. Staff: Chris Heimgartner, General Manager; Assistant General Manager Brian Walters; Ann Grimm, Executive Assistant; Andrew Entrikin, Broadband Program Manager; Steve Jilk, In-House Consultant; Annette Smith, Director of Finance; Rebecca Schlotterback, Manager of Contracts and Regulatory Compliance; Paul Siegmund, Manager of Automation and Technology; Mike Macomber, IT/SCADA Technician; Traci Irvine, Accountant I; and Kurt Wank, Director of Utility Operations.

Public attending:

Rick Maricle	Jamie Douglass
Lauren Turner, Phillips66	Jack Wellman, PSE

2. Approval of Agenda

No changes made.

ACTION: Commissioner Grant made the motion to APPROVE THE AGENDA OF APRIL 11, 2023. Commissioner Arnett second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

- a) Approval of Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting, March 28, 2023;
- b) Approval of the Claims of April 13, 2023:

Vendor	Amount
ALUMICHEM CANADA INC	35,954.40
APPLIED INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC	41.71
AT&T MOBILITY	28.51
CARL'S MOWER & SAW, INC	84.19
CENTRAL WELDING SUPPLY	96.48
CITRIX SYSTEMS, INC.	1,551.05
CORNERSTONE MANAGEMENT, INC.	1,419.00
DESHMANE, ATUL	411.89
EDGE ANALYTICAL LABORATORIES	24.00
ELECTRICAL RELIABILITY SERVICES	7,827.00
EXACT SCIENTIFIC SERVICES INC.	27.00
FASTENAL	3.84
GRANICH ENGINEERED PRODUCTS, INC.	1,897.72
GUARDIAN SECURITY SYSTEMS, INC	2,100.00
HEALTH PROMOTIONS NORTHWEST	150.00
NATIONAL SAFETY, INC.	143.35
NORTH COAST ELECTRIC COMPANY	1,636.20
NORTHWEST CASCADE, INC.	118.50
NORTHWEST FIBER DBA ZIPLY FIBER	1,442.14
NP INFORMATION SYSTEMS (3-D CORP)	252.42
P&P EXCAVATING, LLC	11,560.50
PACIFIC SURVEY & ENGINEERING	1,280.00
PLATT ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO	2,198.32
PUBLIC UTILITY RISK MANAGEMENT SERV.	54,160.28
PUD #1 OF WHATCOM COUNTY	13.86
PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC	8,398.76
R&R COMPRESSOR SERVICE CO.	3,944.07
REGENCE BLUE SHIELD	45,798.72
REISNER DISTRIBUTION, INC	1,541.66
RICOH USA	173.60
SHRED-IT USA	56.05
SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC	8,477.70
SSC - SANITARY SERVICE COMPANY	615.43
TEAMSTER LOCAL #231	616.00
UNITED WAY OF WHATCOM COUNTY	742.00
UTILITIES UNDERGROUND LOCATION	9.03
VALVOLINE	175.66
WASHINGTON DENTAL SERVICE	2,860.65

WASHINGTON TEAMSTERS WELFARE	13,273.40
WHATCOM FARMERS CO-OP	60.88
WHATCOM JANITORIAL	1,430.00
WILSON ENGINEERING, LLC	325.50
WONDERWARE PACWEST	25,526.43
GRAND TOTAL	\$238,447.90

ACTION: Commissioner Grant made the motion to APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA OF APRIL 13, 2023. Commissioner Arnett second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Comment - No comments.

5. Old Business

a) Broadband Program Update

- The Washington State Broadband Office has delayed the award date of grants until the end of April or later.
- Staff continues to work on the Digital Equity Plan needs across Whatcom County. Entrikin is working with the Port and stakeholder engagements to complete the planning worksheets. This potential funding opportunity is in addition to the infrastructure grant applications.
- Ziplly Fiber challenged some of the areas listed as un- or under-served in one of the Port's grant applications. This was confirmed and the end user locations in these areas will be removed from the Port's grant application.
- WPUDA Telecom Workshop – Heimgartner plans to attend this and the General Manager's meeting in May.

b) Adjudication Update

Sitkin said House Bill 1792 is now awaiting approval by the Governor. There is no update for the budget proviso. An Executive Session is planned for the April 25 regular meeting for additional updates.

6. New Business

a) Approve Resolution No. 830

A warrant was issued for an invoice from Whatcom Land Title in the amount of \$350.00 however; the invoice had already been paid by Pacific Surveying and Engineering. The warrant was issued in error and needs to be cancelled.

ACTION: Commissioner Grant made the motion to APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 830 AUTHORIZING CANCELLATION OF WARRANT. Commissioner Arnett second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

b) Water Resource Inventory Area 1 (WRIA 1) Survey Questionnaire

Heimgartner distributed copies of the Regional WRIA 1 Water Supply Plan (Phase 2) and a questionnaire regarding *planning for the next multi-year work plan*. Discussion followed. The Commissioners will send their individual responses to him prior to next meeting on April 25.

Sitkin said he could provide additional information regarding water rights in the adjudication process in a ten-minute Executive Session.

ACTION: Commissioner Arnett made the motion to ADD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO TODAY'S AGENDA IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PUBLIC COMMENT. Commissioner Grant second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

c) Per Diem Policy Discussion

Sitkin addressed and clarified *Section 7 – Per Diem* of the Governance and Management Policy and Resolution No. 797. Discussion followed.

ACTION: No action taken. Information only.

7. General Manager Report

- Reminder: Special Meeting on Thursday at 4 PM, at Pioneer Park Pavilion, 2007 Cherry Street in Ferndale. This is an in-person meeting only.
- Update to the list of PUD member associations now includes Ferndale Chamber of Commerce.

8. Operations Report

- Walters will prepare a status update at the next regular meeting on the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) contracts coming up in late 2024 or early 2025.
- The District's Request for Proposals for the the solar project are due this Friday.

- Continuous power market monitoring indicates power prices are still high and could be an impediment on new, large electric loads.

9. Commissioner Reports

Grant:

- Attended the Public Power Council meeting last week and provided key updates.

Arnett:

- Met with Heimgartner and Eric Hirst about water use efficiency.
- Will be attending WPUA committee meetings this week.
- Inquired about other organizations the PUD donates to.

Deshmane:

- Attended the Whatcom County Economic Development Investment Board meeting.

10. Public Comment

Jamie Douglass commented on broadband, a new STEM organization being formed, his personal water cistern storage solution, and the Special Meeting regarding the Electric Expansion Feasibility Study.

11. Executive Session


Commission President Deshmane requested an Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) Potential Litigation – (a) Water Rights Adjudication. Estimated time for Executive Session was ten (10) minutes. The Commission President indicated no action is anticipated to be taken after the adjournment of Executive Session. After a short break, the Commission adjourned to Executive Session at 10:12 a.m.

Executive Session Adjourn

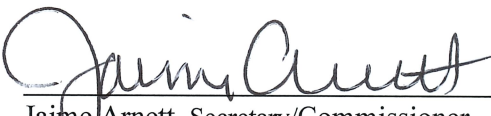
There being no further business for Executive Session, the Commission rejoined the Regular Commission Meeting at 10:25 a.m.

12. Adjourn

There being no further business for the regular meeting, Commissioner Grant adjourned the regular meeting at 10:28 a.m.



Atul Deshmane, President/Commissioner

Christine Grant, 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/2023-agendas-packets-meeting-minutes-recordings/>