

**Minutes of
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY
June 17, 2025
BOX CANYON DAM, IONE, WA AND
VIRTUAL VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

Present: Dave Rick, President
Curtis J. Knapp, Vice President
Troy Moody, Secretary

Staff Present: Chris Jones, General Manager
Management/District Staff
Joe Hathaway, Acting Clerk of the Board

Absent: Karen Willner, Clerk of the Board

Others: Liz Anderson, WPUDA Executive Director
Debra Lester, WPUDA President
Bruce Pollack, WPUDA Secretary
Nicolas Garcia, WPUDA Policy Director
Stefany Zelepuz, WPUDA Policy Manager
Don Gronning, Editor at *The Newport Miner*
Josh Hoyt, IBEW Local 77
Gretchen Koenig, Member of the Public
Tyler Whitney, Cable Huston, LLP, virtual

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Commissioner Dave Rick, President followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Rick then announced a 20-minute executive session to consider qualifications of an applicant for public employment.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – CONSIDER QUALIFICATIONS OF AN APPLICANT
FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT:**

A 20-minute executive session to consider the qualifications of an applicant for public employment commenced at 8:35 a.m. The following were in attendance: Board of Commissioners and Tyler Whitney, Cable Huston, LLP, virtual. A 10-minute extension was announced at 8:55 a.m. The executive session ended at 9:05 a.m. and the Board returned to open session. No final action was taken during the executive session.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The minutes from the June 3, 2025 meeting, today's agenda, and the vouchers were reviewed. Commissioner Rick called for an executive session later in the agenda to discuss carbon credits under the Climate Commitment Act. No other changes were made.

As of this date, June 17, 2025, the Board, upon motion by Commissioner Knapp and seconded by Commissioner Moody approved the following:

- The agenda for June 17, 2025 meeting, and the minutes of the June 3, 2025 meeting.
- Vouchers audited certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing, which has been made available to the Board. Payment of those vouchers, included in the list referred to above and further described as follows: Voucher Nos. 10536 through 10580 in the total amount of \$54,863.46; ACH payments in the total amount of \$680,550.19; Wire transfers in the total amount of \$ 270,923.53; and ACH payroll transactions in the total amount of \$292,287.44 for the payroll ending May 31, 2025.

The motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC/OPEN COMMENT PERIOD:

Commissioner Rick asked if there was any business or comments from the public.

Don Gronning from *The Newport Miner* asked a question regarding the executive session related to carbon credits and why the discussion was not being held publicly. Ben Hall, District Energy Resources Manager, responded that the information discussed is exempt from public disclosure under the Climate Commitment Act.

Commissioner Rick thanked Don for his question.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES/SUMMER STUDENTS:

Bryant Kramer, District Director of Power Production, introduced Porter Larson, Nathan Rasmussen, and Haylee Nelson, summer students working at Box Canyon. He also introduced Van Zwettler who is the Park Host at Box Canyon over the summer. In addition, Mr. Kramer then introduced Josh Hoyt, the new union representative from IBEW Local 77. Commissioner Rick thanked Mr. Kramer and welcomed the new employees and students.

WASHINGTON PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION (WPUDA) VISIT:

Commissioner Rick introduced Liz Anderson, Executive Director of WPUDA, along with WPUDA Board President Pam Lester (Kitsap PUD) and Board Secretary Bruce Pollock (Cowlitz PUD). Ms. Lester and Mr. Pollock gave brief introductions and thanked Pend Oreille PUD for its hospitality and acknowledged the District's longstanding contributions to the public power community.

Ms. Anderson then gave a brief overview of WPUDA's current work, saying the organization remains financially strong and is making internal improvements based on member feedback. She introduced WPUDA Policy Director Nick Garcia and WPUDA Policy Manager Stefany Zelepuzza to present legislative updates.

Mr. Garcia spoke about WPUDA's 2025 legislative priorities, including protecting state funding for low-income energy assistance, maintaining grid reliability amid growing demand, and opposing the formation of a state-run transmission authority. He also touched on wildfire liability issues and said work is underway to prepare new legislation for the 2026 session.

Ms. Zelepuzza covered recent water-related legislation that would have diverted funds from the Public Works Assistance Account. A coordinated utility effort successfully stopped the bill. She also reviewed opportunities tied to BEAD broadband funding and highlighted Washington's continued commitment to providing state matching funds.

Commissioner Moody asked how long it takes for policy issues to be resolved. Ms. Anderson said many issues return over multiple sessions and require consistent outreach to lawmakers. Mr. Garcia added that most legislators have other full-time jobs and benefit from ongoing support from WPUDA and its members.

Commissioner Knapp thanked the group for visiting and said the most significant challenges often come from Olympia and Washington, D.C. Commissioner Rick encouraged all PUDs to think creatively and take a more proactive role, especially in public communication. Mr. Garcia and Mr. Pollock agreed, and Ms. Anderson said WPUDA is focused on being solution-driven and forward-looking.

Interim General Manager Chris Jones said the PUD is aligned with WPUDA's work and remains focused on grid reliability.

The visit concluded with closing remarks from Ms. Lester.

Following a short recess, the meeting resumed.

MANAGEMENT REPORT:

Interim General Manager Chris Jones called on Amber Gifford, District Conservation and Grants Manager, to provide an update on energy efficiency programs. Gifford explained that BPA energy efficiency funds must be spent and introduced a new program to provide energy efficient products free to customers by request. She reviewed the planned timeline

for the program rollout, which is scheduled to begin July 1. She then encouraged staff to volunteer at the Newport Rodeo on June 28.

Sarah Holderman, District Director of Customer Services, reported that recent changes to the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program have resulted in the rescission of all previous awards. Applications have reopened under new federal guidelines. She also shared that NoaNet is exploring expansion of membership. On insurance, she said wildfire-related policies are becoming more expensive, and the PUD is evaluating participation in a self-insurance pool. In response to a question from Commissioner Moody, she said the pool appears to be the most financially viable option.

Bryant Kramer, District Director of Power Production, reported that the Meteline Falls water system repair is nearly complete, with final items to be finished by June 30. He congratulated District Water System Operator Andrew Crawford on passing a difficult water certification exam. On the power side, he said the recent FERC inspection went well, and progress is being made toward releasing the Sullivan Lake Dam license, though some issues remain. For dam safety, he reported that exploratory drilling may be required at Calispell Creek Dike to meet FERC requirements. He also reviewed upcoming summer maintenance, including an internal dam inspection, and said there are no plans to change the 10-day camping limit at Campbell Park, located at the Box Canyon Dam property.

Interim General Manager Chris Jones reported that negotiations with IBEW Local 77 will begin this fall. He shared that Chelan PUD recently reached a three-year agreement with a 20% wage increase - 12% in the first year, followed by 4% annually. In response to a question from Commissioner Knapp, Jones said each utility approaches labor negotiations differently. He also shared insights from the American Public Power Association conference that he recently attended, where a speaker stated that public power utilities lag the broader industry by 25% in employee compensation. Mr. Jones said the PUD must stay competitive to retain its workforce.

Commissioner Rick thanked Mr. Jones and everyone for their reports. He then called for a 15-minute executive session to consider greenhouse gas allowance auction bidding information that is prohibited from release or disclosure under RCW 70A.65.100(8).

EXECUTIVE SESSION – TO CONSIDER GREENHOUSE GAS ALLOWANCE AUCTION BIDDING INFORMATION THAT IS PROHIBITED FROM RELEASE OF DISCLOSURE UNDER RCW 70A.65.100(8):

A 15-minute executive session to consider greenhouse gas allowance auction commenced at 11:03 a.m. The following were in attendance: Board of Commissioners, Chris Jones, Interim General Manager, April Owen, District Director of Finance and Ben Hall, District Energy Resources Manager. The executive session ended at 11:18 a.m. and the Board returned to open session. No final action was taken during the executive session

Commissioner Rick then announced a break for lunch until 11:45 a.m.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Approval of Bid Award – Surplus Property, Fleet Asset #220 (1992 Kenworth Digger Derrick):** Motion made by Commissioner Moody, seconded by Commissioner Knapp. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Approval of Resolution No. 1501 – County Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Motion made by Commissioner Moody, seconded by Commissioner Knapp. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Knapp thanked staff for their work on the plan.
- **Consignment of Carbon Allowances to Auction under the Climate Commitment Act:** Motion made by Commissioner Knapp, seconded by Commissioner Moody. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSION REPORT:

Commissioner Knapp attended the NoaNet meeting in Spokane with Sarah Holderman and commended her efforts and engagement with the organization. He also participated in the Public Power Council meeting.

Commissioner Moody attended the Pend Oreille County Historical Society meeting. He shared that the group is actively involved in research and not just historical preservation. He mentioned their interest in expanding documentation on Box Canyon Dam and the PUD's history.

Commissioner Rick attended the Pend Oreille County Representative meeting along with Commissioner's Knapp and Moody, and thanked Chris Jones and April Owen for also participating.

COMMISSION BUSINESS:

- **Pre-Approval of Commissioner Travel or Meeting Attendance:** A motion was made by Commissioner Moody, seconded by Commissioner Knapp, to approve the Commissioner Travel or Meeting Attendance for July as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Knapp will attend an Energy Northwest meeting in Vancouver, Washington.

Commissioner Rick will attend the TEDD meeting in Colville.

Commissioner Moody had no meetings scheduled.

Commissioner Rick asked if there was any other business for the good of the order. There was none.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 1, 2025, starting at 8:30 a.m., in the Newport Conference Room, Newport and via Microsoft Teams.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary

General Counsel
Approved as to Form