Minutes of
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY
November 3, 2026
NEWPORT CONFERENCE ROOM, NEWPORT, WA AND
VIRTUAL VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Present:	Curtis J. Knapp, President David Rick, Vice President J. Troy Moody, Secretary
Staff Present:	Chris Jones, General Manager Management/District Staff Angie Rogers, Clerk of the Board
Others:	Gretchen Koenig, Member of the Public Ernie Hood, Commissioner Candidate

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The minutes from the October 20, 2026 meeting, today's agenda, and the vouchers were reviewed.

As of this date, November 3, 2026, the Board, upon motion by Commissioner Moody and seconded by Commissioner Knapp, approved the following:

- The agenda for November 3, 2026 meeting, and the minutes of the October 20, 2026 meeting.
- Vouchers audited and 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 Numbers.12263 through 12299 in the total amount of $104,092.33; ACH payments in the total amount of $658,750.18; Wire Transfers in the total amount of $353,300.50; and ACH payroll transactions in the total amount of $333,105.92 for the payroll ending October 15, 2026.

The motion passed unanimously.

SAFETY SPOTLIGHT:
Nicole Woitel, District HR Generalist, announced the monthly recipients of the PUD's CORE Value awards, which are given to employees. She then reported that the PUD had a safety incident on October 19 which resulted in the employee having to miss work. The District is now at 14 days since its last time-loss injury. Ms. Woitel then announced upcoming employee training, including leadership training in November, followed by WAC rule changes and underground electrical installation in December.

CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT:
Shannon Johnston, District Customer Service Supervisor, shared cold-weather energy efficiency tips to help customers prepare for winter. She also announced upcoming office closures for November and gave a recap of the PUD's participation in Newport's annual Halloween trick-or-treating event.

COMMISSION REPORT:
Commissioner Rick attended the Tri-County Economic Development District (TEDD) meeting in Colville on October 28. Discussion was held.

Commissioner Moody attended Energy Northwest meetings in Kennewick from October 20-22. Discussion was held. He also attended a Greater Newport Area Chamber of Commerce meeting in Newport on October 27. Discussion was held.

Commissioner Knapp had no event attendance to report.

COMMISSION BUSINESS:
Commissioner Moody will attend the quarterly Washington PUD Association (WPUDA) meetings held November 17–November 20.

Commissioner Rick and Commissioner Knapp will both also attend the WPUDA meetings this month.

Commissioner Knapp will attend Public Utility Risk Management Services (PURMS) meeting on November 4-5 and will attend the Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee (PNUCC) meeting virtually on November 6.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC/OPEN COMMENT PERIOD:

Commissioner Knapp reviewed the guidelines for the public comment session. He asked if anyone had any comments.

Gretchen Koenig, member of the public, provided public comment.

Ernie Hood, Commissioner Candidate, provided public comment.

Commissioner Knapp thanked everyone for their comments and for attending.

Following a short recess, the meeting resumed.

Commissioner Knapp announced an open discussion period. Discussion was held amongst the Commissioners and District staff regarding the upcoming budget process, with topics including capital projects, operating costs and project expenditures.

BUDGET PRESENTATION:
Sarah Holderman, District Director of Customer Services, presented the 2027 draft budget. The presentation included a review of projected revenues for next year, cost allocations, staffing needs and changes, operating expenses, capital expenditures, low-income assistance programs, and more. She announced that the next step in the budget process will be a public hearing at the November 17 board meeting.

GENERAL MANAGER REPORT:
Chris Jones, District General Manager, reported that he will attend the annual WPUDA legislative luncheon on Thursday, November 5 in Colville. He also noted that November 3 marked the District's 90th anniversary. Mr. Jones provided an update on the Pend Oreille County franchise agreement, which has been reviewed by the District's legal counsel and returned to the County for further consideration. The District is seeking a 20-year franchise renewal.

Mr. Jones also provided an update on the Usk interconnection request. Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has completed the System Impact Study for Merkle Standard's request to increase the Usk substation interconnection from 100 megawatts to 225 megawatts. The System Impact Study is the second of BPA's three-step interconnection study process. Mr. Jones noted that BPA's study identified upgrades to its transmission system that would be required to support the requested increased load, including substation upgrades and installation of new equipment. BPA estimates the cost of the upgrades at around $20.3 million, with an estimated construction timeline of 30 to 36 months.

Mr. Jones explained that the study contains controlled information, and the District has requested a redacted, publicly available version. District staff are scheduled to meet with BPA on November 12 to review the study results and discuss the findings. Following that meeting, Merkle Standard will determine whether to proceed with the third phase of the interconnection process, known as the Facilities Study. If Merkle elects to proceed, BPA will conduct the Facilities Study, and the District will concurrently evaluate any upgrades necessary to its own electric system to serve the additional load request. Merkle would be required to prepay the costs associated with both BPA's studies and the District's evaluation.

FINANCIAL REVIEW:
April Owen, District Director of Finance, provided 2026 Financials through September. Topics covered included Inflation & Interest Income, Cash & Investments, Capital Projects, and Expenses.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Resolution No. 1518: Approval of Resolution No. 1518 adopting the Pend Oreille County Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan solely for the purpose of meeting applicable Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) planning requirements associated with the District's application for a Boating Facilities Planning Grant. A motion was made by Commissioner Rick and seconded by Commissioner Knapp to adopt and approve the resolution. The motion passed, with Commissioner Moody voting no.
- Resolution No. 1519: Approval of Resolution No. 1519 authorizing execution of forms required by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) as part of the grant application process. A motion was made by Commissioner Rick and seconded by Commissioner Knapp to adopt and approve the resolution. The motion passed, with Commissioner Moody voting no.

Commissioner Knapp asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, he announced that the next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, 2026, starting at 8:30 a.m., in the Newport Conference Room, in Newport, Washington and via Microsoft Teams.

Commissioner Knapp adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

_____
President

ATTEST:

_____
Secretary

_____
General Counsel
Approved as to Form