

Minutes of
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY
September 2, 2025
NEWPORT CONFERENCE ROOM, NEWPORT, WA AND
VIRTUAL VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

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

Staff Present: Chris Jones, General Manager
Management/District Staff
Karen Willner, Clerk of the Board

Others: Gretchen Koenig, Member of the Public

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The minutes from the August 19, 2025 meeting, today's agenda, and the vouchers were reviewed.

As of this date, September 2, 2025, the Board, upon motion by Commissioner Moody and seconded by Commissioner Knapp approved the following:

- The agenda for September 2, 2025 meeting, and the minutes of the August 19, 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. 10785 through 10829 in the total amount of \$71,146.67; ACH payments in the total amount of \$647,403.43; Wire transfers in the total amount of \$484,861.92; and ACH payroll transactions in the total amount of \$332,610.08 for the payroll ending August 15, 2025.

The motion passed unanimously.

SAFETY SPOTLIGHT:

Katie Pfitzer, District Safety Manager, reported Safety and Core Value Awards were given to Coleman Bauer, District Warehouseman; Chris Wilson, District Project Engineer; Lauren Naccarato, District Utility Services Designer II; JL Chantry, District Line Foreman, Ione; Dave Bereiter, District Journeyman Lineman; Hunter Enyeart, District Journeyman Lineman; and Michael Cambareri, District GIS Technician.

She reported there were no incidents to report for August. August safety trainings included vault and enclosed space rescue, confined spaces, office ergonomics, radio etiquette, and wire pull plans. Upcoming trainings will include lock out tag out and Safety MSDS.

She read an employee's summary related to evacuation preparedness due to a recent wildfire in the Athol and Cocolalla region. She expressed that this was a great exercise and lessons learned to have important documents and items ready to go.

CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT:

Shannon Johnston, District Customer Services Supervisor, reported the monthly Customer Connect newsletter is again being sent as a hard copy with the customer bill. She highlighted the newsletter articles including what the utility and customer is responsible for, the wood pole test and treat program, how to be prepared for the cold weather, and Rural Resources energy resources and assistance for veterans and low-income customers.

COMMISSION REPORT:

Commissioner Moody attended an Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) meeting on August 27 in Usk and provided an overview that included removing roadblocks.

Commissioner Knapp attended virtual Energy Northwest meetings on August 27 – 29 and provided an overview.

Commissioner Rick attended the EDAC meeting on August 27 in Usk and a Tri-County Economic Development District (TEDD) meeting on August 27 in Colville and reported the EDAC meeting was very informational and he provided an overview. He attended a Strategic Planning meeting with District staff on August 28 in Newport. He encouraged the positive reinforcement and support of the EDAC in the county and noted TEDD is focused on Stevens County.

COMMISSION BUSINESS:

Commissioner Knapp will attend a Strategic Planning meeting with District staff tomorrow in Newport, Public Power Council meetings on September 3 – 4 in Portland, a virtual Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee meeting on September 5, and Energy Northwest financial meetings on September 8 - 11 in New York City. He

encouraged the Board and staff to attend a Washington Public Utility Districts Association and Energy Northwest Member Forum on October 23 in Tri-Cities.

Commissioner Moody will attend a virtual Broadband Action Team meeting today.

Commissioner Rick will attend a Pend Oreille Representatives Workshop on September 10 here at the District.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC/OPEN COMMENT PERIOD:

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

Gretchen Koenig, member of the public, seconded Commissioner Rick's support for the EDAC and reported Jessica Garza, Economic Development Director for the Port, is a breath of fresh air for the county. She commented that the analogy of Sandpoint versus Newport isn't accurate as Sandpoint is in a different decision-making mindset for development and we need to think differently and smarter for Newport and the county. Discussion was held.

Commissioner Rick thanked Ms. Koenig for her comments and everyone for attending.

Following a short recess, the meeting resumed.

GENERAL MANAGER REPORT:

Chris Jones, District General Manager, reported he and staff attended a Central Washington Public Utilities joint bargaining negotiations meeting on August 28 in Spokane. The group reached a tentative agreement regarding employee medical benefits.

Ben Hall, District Energy Resources Manager, referenced the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Contract High Water Mark that establishes the amount of power we can get from BPA. He reported that over the last two years we have been working with BPA and the final Contract High Water Mark won't be calculated until April 2026. We have between now and December 5 to decide if we want to sign a Provider of Choice power contract. The Board thanked Mr. Hall for his efforts.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT:

April Owen, District Director of Finance, provided a Financial Report through July 2025 and highlighted the changes from June to July. She reviewed the budgets for the Electric System, Community Network System, Water Systems, Production System, operations & maintenance, administrative & general, and capital projects. She reviewed the metrics for days cash on hand, debt service coverage, and debt to assets ratio. The Board thanked Ms. Owen for her presentation and information and Sarah Holderman, District Director of Customer Services, for her calculations.

ACTION ITEM:

- Approval of Revised Contributions Policy. Joe Hathaway, District Public Information Officer, reported the changes are to enhance our support for community events and outreach regarding our mission and safety. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Commissioner Knapp and seconded by Commissioner Moody to approve the revised Contributions Policy. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD WORKSHOP:

- Cybersecurity. Bob Pebles, District Information Technology Manager/CIP Senior Manager, provided a Cybersecurity presentation and reported it goes beyond protecting systems, networks, and programs from digital attacks. He reviewed industry standard guidance and guidelines and how they apply to the District and reported the more layers of security we can put in place the more deterrence for hackers. He explained our latest security endeavors. The Board thanked Mr. Pebles for his presentation and information.

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

He reported the next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, 2025, starting at 8:30 a.m., in the Newport Conference Room, in Newport and via Microsoft Teams. He adjourned the meeting at 10:59 a.m.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary

General Counsel
Approved as to Form