

Minutes of  
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY  
April 30, 2024  
BOX CANYON DAM, IONE, WA AND  
VIRTUAL VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Present: Joseph B. Onley, President  
David W. Rick, Vice President  
Curtis J. Knapp, Secretary

Staff Present: John Janney, General Manager  
Management/District Staff  
Sarah Holderman, Acting Clerk of the Board

Others: Gretchen Koenig, Member of the Public  
Monty Stahl, COO, Merkle Standard  
Sonya Scauftaire, Selkirk Sun

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Joseph B. Onley, President.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The minutes from the April 16, 2024 meeting, today's agenda, and the vouchers were reviewed.

As of this date, April 30, 2024, the Board, upon motion by Commissioner Knapp and seconded by Commissioner Rick approved the following:

- The agenda for April 30, 2024, and the minutes of the April 16, 2024 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. 9293 through 9316 in the total amount of \$68,953.40; ACH payments in the total amount of \$500,857.29; Wire Transfers in the total amount of \$732,988.53; and ACH payroll transactions in the total amount of \$252,879.76 for the payroll ending April 15, 2024.

The motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC/OPEN COMMENT PERIOD:

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

Gretchen Koenig, member of the public, posed a question regarding new federal regulations regarding limits for PFAS chemicals in water systems.

Monty Stahl, COO of Merkle Standard, expressed appreciation for several PUD staff. Nik Reed, District Broadband System Network Administrator, for his assistance with the new fiber line; Chris Jones, District Director of Operations, and his team for assistance with the Blue Moon substation meter; and John Janney, District General Manager, and Ben Hall, District Energy Resources Manager, on coordination for the refiner motor test.

Commissioner Onley thanked everyone for their comments and for attending.

GENERAL MANAGER REPORT:

Mr. Janney, Mr. Hall, and April Owen, District Director of Finance, met with Avista last week regarding the current Balancing Authority (BA) Agreement which runs through September 2026.

Mr. Janney also discussed the recently enacted Washington laws and regulations and impacts on costs for utilities. Projected impacts on customers' electric rates to comply with current and upcoming regulations appear to be material. District staff is working on quantifying the impact on our customers and attempting to identify ways to mitigate these impacts.

MANAGEMENT REPORT:

Suzie Wrbelis, Director of Human Resources:

Suzie provided an education reimbursement program update. The District currently has two employees enrolled in the program. Jamie Dunn, District Production Administrative Assistant, has completed 4 classes with 17 remaining. James Massey, District Power Supply Operator has completed 71% of the program and plans on completing classes in late 2024 or early 2025.

Chris Jones, Director of Operations:

Two temporary linemen are starting tomorrow, May 1<sup>st</sup>, and will work for up to 6 months, depending on timing of employee return. The crews completed the upgrade for 100 Telephone Rd. Line extensions are picking up and we are ordering material for summer projects.

Ben Hall, Energy Resources Manager:

The process for renewing the District's power contract with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) kicked off last month. The next contract, branded "Provider of Choice", is a 16-year commitment, beginning in October 2028. Over the next several months there will be one or two full day workshops each week for contract discussions. He provided a timeline for the contract review and analysis. He noted that there are several variables that will not be fully known prior to when a new BPA contract will need to be signed, and that staff will use several resources to evaluate the contract options that may best serve the District. Commissioner Rick expressed his appreciation to Mr. Hall for his commitment, diligence and hard work on this process. Mr. Janney noted some of aspects of BPA's tiered contract rates and how those rates may apply to the District under a future contract. Discussion was held.

Sarah Holderman, Director of Customer Services:

She provided a BEAD Challenge update. Mr. Janney discussed the challenges of grant funding and outlined decision points that will need to be made. Discussion was held.

Scott Jungblom, Natural Resources Manager:

The upstream fishway started operating on March 26<sup>th</sup>, a month ahead compared to the last two years. Fourteen target fish, primarily cutthroat, have been passed, which is as many as the past two years combined. Weekly downstream electroshocking collections for target fish have started. The goal is to tag target fish before they get into the fish ladder so we can track their movements up and monitor fishway efficiency.

Washington Fish and Wildlife and the American Legion are putting on their youth and senior fishing event for the second year on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Box Canyon Campbell pond. The State will be providing over 1000 fish for the event ranging from 11 inches to 5 pounds.

7700 Ponderosa Pine were planted on 30 acres of Everette Island March 21 as part of the habitat improvement measures required under the Wildlife Management Plan. Soil moisture and predation monitoring is under way.

He visited the LeClerc Creek fish management structure, it held fine throughout the winter highwater event with just a little ice heaving that will have to be fixed.

Discussion was held regarding the bull trout reintroduction public meeting.

Mr. Janney expressed appreciation to Sonya Scaufaire for her coverage of the bull trout meeting and distribution of the BEAD Challenge documentation.

#### ACTION ITEMS:

- Declaration of Surplus Property – Fleet Asset #900, a 2007 Ford Explorer. A motion was made by Commissioner Knapp and seconded by Commissioner Rick to approve and declare the vehicle as being unserviceable, inadequate, obsolete, worn out, or unfit to be used in the District’s operations, and no longer necessary, material to, or useful in the operations of the District and, therefore, surplus to the needs of the District. The motion passed unanimously. Staff will proceed as appropriate.
- Approval of 100 Telephone Road, LLC Electric Service Agreement Amendment. A motion was made by Commissioner Rick and seconded by Commissioner Knapp to authorize the General Manager to execute the amendment in substantially the same form as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
- Northwest Open Access Network (NoaNet) Bylaw Amendments. A motion was made by Commissioner Knapp and seconded by Commissioner Rick to authorize the District’s NoaNet member representative to vote in favor of the proposed bylaw amendments. The motion passed unanimously.
- Approval of Unbudgeted Request – HR Generalist Position. A motion was made by Commissioner Rick and seconded by Commissioner Knapp to approve the addition of a full time FTE. The motion passed unanimously.
- Approval of Donation Request for Neighbors in Need Fund. A motion was made by Commissioner Knapp and seconded by Commissioner Rick to donate \$12,500 to the District’s Neighbors in Need fund. The motion passed unanimously.

#### COMMISSION REPORT:

The Board of Commissioners attended the WPUA Annual Conference April 17 – 19 at the Skamania Lodge.

Commissioner Knapp attended Energy Northwest meetings on April 23 – 25 in Tri-Cities.

Commissioner Rick attended an electric vehicle working group on April 22 at the Camas Center and a Tri-County Economic Development District meeting on April 24 in Colville.

#### COMMISSION BUSINESS:

- Pre-Approval of Commissioner Travel or Meeting Attendance. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Commissioner Knapp and seconded by Commissioner Rick to approve the Commissioner Travel or Meeting Attendance for May. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Knapp will attend Public Power Counsel (PPC) on May 1 and May 2 and Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee (PNUCC) on May 3.

Commissioner Onley will attend a Greater Newport Area Chamber of Commerce meeting May 1. He will also virtually attend PNUCC on May 3.

Commissioner Onley asked if there was any other business for the good of the order.

Commissioner Onley reported that following a working lunch, the meeting is adjourned. The next meeting will be held on May 7 at 8:30 a.m. in Newport.

There being no further discussion to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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President

ATTEST:

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Secretary

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General Counsel  
Approved as to Form