



Pend Oreille County Public Utility District

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Pend Oreille PUD Commission Approves 2021 Budget

The Pend Oreille County Public Utility District Board of Commissioners approved a \$42.6 million budget for 2021 during its December 29, 2020 board meeting. The budget encompasses operation and maintenance expenses, system improvements, regulatory and compliance requirements, and capital expenditures.

In the midst of the global pandemic, recovering from the closure of its largest customer and other utility industry changes, the PUD continues to be cost conscientious. The utility is continually evaluating expenditures and reducing costs, where possible, while maintaining reliable services. The commissioners approved the budget as presented and recommended by staff by a two-to-one vote, with Commissioner Onley voting no.

Production and distribution capital expenditures for 2021 include \$2.2 million to maintain and improve overall system reliability and longevity, as well as, \$720,000 for completion of the upstream fish passage facility at Box Canyon Dam.

The Community Network System is budgeting \$264,500 in capital expenditures for the year which includes \$150,000 for line extensions paid for by the customer; this cost is offset through revenue.

The Water System capital budget is \$990,000. The system is budgeting \$100,000 to complete the water treatment facility at Riverview, \$110,000 to begin a water main replacement project at Sunvale and \$780,000 for distribution replacement project in Metaline Falls. The District was awarded grant funding and low interest financing for these projects.

A complete summary of the 2021 Pend Oreille PUD budget can be found on the District's website at www.popud.org.

About Pend Oreille County Public Utility District

Pend Oreille County Public Utility District was established in 1936 and began operations in 1948. The PUD is governed by three locally elected Commissioners. A General Manager and staff operate the utility within policies set by the Board of Commissioners. The PUD has four operating systems: The electric system distributes electricity to the county, the production system produces power from the Box Canyon Hydroelectric Project, the water system consists of nine individual water distribution subdivisions, and the community network system provides wholesale broadband communication services. For more information visit: <http://popud.org>.