

Board of Commissioners

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Ron Schultz White Salmon Branch Manager

> Jim Moss Auditor

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Public Power and Local Control

October 1 marks the beginning of Public Power Week, a time each year when we celebrate having local control of our electric utility.

Sixty-eight years ago the citizens of Klickitat County decided they did not want an outside business running the electric company, so they decided to run it themselves. The decision allowed local citizens to elect three people—their friends and neighbors—to provide the Public Utility District (PUD) with a board of commissioners to lead it.

A manager and a staff are hired to direct the day-to-day operations, but the commissioners set policies and provide the rules for the PUD to follow. The board also provides the vision and leadership to bring about action and change.

From the community water and wastewater systems to the large wind farms in eastern Klickitat County, these projects provide a much-needed economic boost to a county that has been dealt more than its share of economic challenges. The vision this board has set has provided a clear path to energy independence and economic vitality.

Public power provides you with access to both the board of commissioners and the management team. Try that with a large investor-owned utility. I doubt you would get past first base to voice a concern directly to the president of the board at PacifiCorp. With public power, that is exactly what happens all the time

Klickitat PUD's board meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. They are open to the public. We invite you to stop by and see public power in action.

The PUD also holds community meetings throughout the county to better understand your needs and to communicate what is happening, both here at the PUD and in the utility world in general. Look for the meeting in your community, or give us a call and let us set up a meeting with your community or group.

We never tire of talking about all the exciting issues and opportunities facing us in Klickitat County. Thanks to public power, we all have meaningful involvement in regional issues—and control of our own destiny.

Tom Svendsen, General Manager

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