

Public Utility District No. 1 of Klickitat County  
**Board of Commissioners Meeting**  
**Tuesday, October 25, 2022**  
**2:00pm**

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Douglas B. Miller called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. as advertised.

**PRESENT:** Douglas B. Miller - President, Randy L. Knowles - Vice President, and Dan G. Gunkel - Secretary

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jim Smith - General Manager, Gwyn Miller - Assistant General Manager, Cara Smith - AP/Accounting Clerk, Mike Nixon - Operations Manager, Jeff Thayer - Materials Manager, Brandon Johnson - Engineering Manager, Mark Garner - Engineering Supervisor, Brandy Myers - Customer and Accounting Services Supervisor, Sarah Honkala - Accounting Clerk, Cynthia Bruce - Accountant, Mike DeMott - Director of Finance and Power Management, and April Greenlaw - Support Assistant.

Via teleconference: Geoffrey Lacefield - System Engineer, Isabelle Carroll - Accounting Clerk, Courtney Collins - Engineering Support Assistant.

**GUESTS:** None

**PLEDGE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

**MINUTES:** **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Gunkel to approve the October 11, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS & PAYROLL:** Presented by Cara Smith. Vouchers were audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and all expense reimbursement claims presented were certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 and were recorded on a listing made available to the board this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2022.

**MOTION** was made by Commissioner Knowles to approve accounts payable vouchers and payroll in the amounts as listed:

- Accounts Payable Voucher Nos. 214557 through 214682 in the total amount of \$1,579,301.22; Wire and Automated Clearing House (ACH) transaction Nos. 8801710 through 8801714, along with Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) transaction Nos. 394 through 399 in the total amount of \$945,175.24 for the period ending October 25, 2022; and
- Payroll Warrant No. 214556 and ACH Direct Deposit Payroll transactions 210308 through 210390 in the total amount of \$255,116.29 for the payroll period ending October 9, 2022.

Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**REPORTS:**

**Operations Update and Vehicle Report** - Mike Nixon and Jeff Thayer presented their updates. Mike reported that our reliability in September was 99.778, which is under the goal of 99.971. The outages for September were mostly comprised of tree and animal incidents and equipment failures. The pre-apprentice physical testing took place and we are inviting seven back for in-person interviews to fill two positions between Goldendale and White Salmon. We have approximately seven customers ready in Goldendale with the schedule being approximately 1.5 weeks out, with another seven customers on the schedule in White Salmon. There are currently three Kemp West crews on the property doing tree trimming. Mike added that a

correction to the tree trimming reporting for the hard bid needed to be stated. The bid only contained 42 miles of overhead conductor with 22 miles of underground totaling 64 miles. Commissioner Miller asked if we are asking for more or less vegetation money in the 2023 budget. Mike answered that we are working within the 2023 budget. Jim asked how many miles we will complete by the end of the year. Mike believes we will complete between 130 to 150 miles. North Idaho Contractors will be working through Wishram on the pole test and treat contract.

The monthly safety meeting was cancelled due to the unplanned outages last week.

Commissioner Knowles inquired on the cause of the outage in Bingen and if it was Pacific Power & Light's issue. The outage actually took place on the White Salmon and North White Salmon feeders where the conductors passed over each other and arced with the rain. These lines have been adjusted and we are designing a more permanent correction. There was confusion based on initial reports from the public regarding trees down on the line.

Jeff Thayer provided a five-year outlook on the vehicles budget. Last year, the Ford F350 and F450s were not offered on the government contract. There are currently four vehicles that will carryover from this year's budget to 2023. The state bid will open the contracts on the Fords for five days and we are hoping to pre-order the budgeted 2023 Fords and are informing the board, as the budget is not yet approved.

Chevrolet does not yet have a date of when they will open the purchase contract for half-tons. They only opened the contract for one day during 2022, however they then cancelled most of those orders. There are a few vehicles from the 2021 budget with 2023 deliverables still pending. Additionally, several of those orders have been cancelled or bumped for 12 or more months. The board agreed for Jeff to carry on and order when available.

**Engineering update** - Brandon Johnson updated the board on the AMI integration. We currently have two water meters installed, one in Wishram and one in Ponderosa Park and both are reporting back to the office. Commissioner Knowles had a question come up at the Snowden Community Meeting asking if we can support net metering through AMI. Brandon and Mark Garner responded that we are able to do this now and that we have several net metered accounts already in the pilot. The Engineering, Operations and the IT department all visited White Salmon to design an outage center for the office. It will be located in the conference room and should not affect the general use of the room.

Day Wireless has been working on installing an IP radio in White Salmon. We confirmed today that we can operate a physical radio in White Salmon from Goldendale with the IP radio and vice versa. This should dramatically improve the radio communications in the White Salmon area.

Mark provided an update on customer engineering. The workload is fluctuating greatly and the normal rush is happening prior to the end of the construction season. We are seeing a lot of temporary to permanent installations on the west-end of the county. Goldendale has seven jobs ready, with seven more waiting to be scheduled. White Salmon has another seven jobs on the schedule, with an additional nine requiring one or more items. Engineering currently has three subdivision projects that are pending, with no update on the status of the Husum Hills project. We are working on these jobs, however we will not be installing transformers until needed. There are no connections yet in any of the subdivisions. Mark added that the Titan dock crew has completed their work for KPUD this year and we will bid out the dock work again next year. Justin has been working with some developers in the Box Canyon area. The rest of the engineers are assisting with the 2023 project planning and designs. Phillip has been working on the MA Collins outage documentation and other applications as time allows.

Brandon provided an update on the outages from last week. Monday started with reports of a large explosion in the Husum substation, which turned out to be a failed PT, which has since been removed.

Wednesday, at approximately 1:30AM, PSE was knocked offline due to a switch failure on the 230KV system. Crews were working on this until the fire in the MA Collins substation took priority. The outage at MA Collins lasted from about 10:00 Wednesday morning until 2:30 Thursday morning. Two recloser bays, the associated switches and the voltage regulator were destroyed. We believe the that power transformer may have been damaged as well. Crews, the meter shop and engineers put the old transformer back into service and built temporary structures to re-energize our customers. Staff was amazed how quickly they accomplished that scope of work. Brandon shared pictures and advised we are still investigating the incident. ECI will be on site tomorrow and we will be testing the power transformers to determine their integrity. Mike commented that there was a dead starling found near the switches. The 230 switch was then repaired on Friday.

Brandon complimented KPUD crews, Benton PUD, BPA and the irrigators for their work and understanding during this event. Commissioner Knowles asked why Benton PUD was involved Jim responded that we reached out to them in case we needed them to open up the 115kV line as we are fed from their transmission line from Horse Heaven. We also obtained metering and other relevant data.

Brandon advised that we then had another outage at MA Collins on Friday. We received calls around midnight Thursday night and crews found a broken jumper. They took the transmission out at 3:30AM and re-energized our customers about 10:00 am.

**COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS MILLER** - Commissioner Miller asked if anyone will be attending the WPUDA annual conference. Jim plans to attend. He also discussed the newly released Department of Commerce information sheet and LiDAR survey.

**COMMISSIONER RANDY KNOWLES** - Commissioner Knowles will be attending the Public Utilities Risk Management System semiannual meeting November 2-3. The administrative committee will be reviewing budgets, of which he did not see anything of concern. He will provide a report at the next board meeting.

**COMMISSIONER DAN GUNKEL** - Commissioner Gunkel did not have a report.

#### **ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER** -

- Operational Update -
  - The Accounting department has begun working on the State Audit and requested Commissioner Miller attend an audit kick off meeting. Commissioner Miller agreed that he can be available and will attend via teleconference. Brandy advised that they are going to include an energy component, which will touch on CETA.
  - IT has been working through the Microsoft Office 365 conversion. Gwyn also introduced Kevin Sansburn as a new hire in the IT department. Additionally, IT's summer intern Isaac Colyar has been hired to work part-time while attending school.
  - Patrick Carroll is a consultant who has been working on special projects pertaining to the workflow management processes within the utility.
  - Mike Nixon introduced Christian Clark as a new lineman in Goldendale. Mike split the Goldendale crew into two crews again. Gwyn thanked the commissioners for the authorization for the signing bonus. These incentives have allowed us to bring on two additional linemen to KPUD.

