

Public Utility District No. 1 of Klickitat County
Board of Commissioners Meeting
Tuesday, March 26, 2024
2:00pm

CALL TO ORDER: President Randy L. Knowles called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. as advertised.

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

STAFF PRESENT: Jim Smith - General Manager, Kevin Ricks - Renewable Energy Assets Manager, Mike DeMott - Director of Finance and Power Management, Cara Smith - Accounting Clerk, Sharon Blodgett - Water/Wastewater Coordinator, Brandon Johnson - Engineering Manager, Brandon Walter - Water/Wastewater Superintendent, Brandy Myers - Customer and Accounting Services Manager, Mike Nixon - Operations Manager, Justin Beierle - Engineering Superintendent, and Luann Mata - Executive Assistant

VIA-TELECONFERENCE: Ocean Barrett - Water/Wastewater Support Assistant, April Greenlaw - Operations Administrative Assistant, Mark Garner - Engineering Supervisor, Patrick Carroll - Contractor, Anita Clever - Energy Services Specialist, Sarah Honkala - Accountant and Seth Jones - Buyer.

GUESTS: Jeff Thayer and Larry Hocter

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

MINUTES: MOTION was made by Commissioner Gunkel to approve the March 12, 2024 meeting minutes as submitted. 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 26th day of March, 2024.

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

- Accounts Payable Voucher Nos. 218892 through 219024 in the total amount of \$1,037,737.02; Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) transaction Nos. 581 through 585 and Wire and Automated Clearing House (ACH) Nos. 8801936 through 8801944 in the total amount of \$2,896,315.41 for the period ending March 26, 2024; and
- Payroll ACH Direct Deposit Payroll transactions 213693 through 213779 in the total amount of \$246,017.95 for the payroll period ending March 10, 2024.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

REPORTS:

Water-Wastewater Report - Sharon Blodgett and Brandon Walter presented the department report for February. Brandon discussed the Lyle Upper Well pump repair.

Sharon added that the Klickitat County Commissioners have signed the Landfill Gas Improvement Fund contract for the Dallesport clarifier project and that interviews for the water/wastewater trainee position will be complete this week.

Operations February Report - Mike Nixon presented the report. Reliability factor is lower than our goal. This is due in large part to a car vs pole incident in Dallesport. The crews continue to work on maintenance projects and assist with AMI infrastructure installation. Kemp West has two crews on site working in various areas throughout the county, with 18 miles trimmed in February for a year-to-date total of 32 miles. With the turn in our weather, we expect them to begin the hard bid transition soon. Dale Stelter and Rick Slawson fell 369 trees last month.

Engineering February Report - Brandon Johnson and Justin Beierle presented the report. Brandon reviewed the meter shop's current schedule of PUD work one week and AMI installs the next. He expects it will take staff approximately five weeks to complete installation of the remaining 1300 meters. Staff sent out 41 letters to owners that either refused Allegiant in the field or their property did not have access when Allegiant arrived. Jared Balcom is working with staff to fine-tune routers we have available to close gaps in communications. Overall, the system is working well. Our goal is to reach 96% daily read returns, right now we are in the mid-80s. Brandon reviewed the analytical tools through NISC we have access to now. He discussed how the analytics would assist us in the future. At last week's BPA meeting, staff discussed reliability and support for the west end of county. We are also reaching out to Pacific Power and Light to discuss reliability, capacities, growth and switching. We are exploring all options to restore power faster in this area when outages occur. BPA will also be completing some maintenance projects out of their Chenoweth Substation that should increase reliability in the central county as well.

Justin reviewed projects that the staking engineers are actively working on. Customer work was about the same in Goldendale and White Salmon in February and customer work is beginning to pick up. The dock crew will be on site mid-April. They will begin working in Alderdale on the MA Collins double-circuit impacted by the local bird population. Commissioner Knowles requested an update on the James Dean pit reroute project. This is still an active project, but still requires a customer decision and engineering.

COMMISSIONER RANDY KNOWLES - Commissioner Knowles did not have a report.

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

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS MILLER - Commissioner Miller did not have a report.

GENERAL MANAGER - The complete report can be found at: http://www.klickitatpud.com/topicalMenu/commissioners/GM_Reports.aspx In addition to the written report, Jim Smith presented the following information:

Jim Smith shared that Governor Inslee signed Washington State Senate bill SB5919 this morning concerning the sale of biogenic carbon dioxide and other coproducts of biogas processing. Kevin Ricks discussed the safety concern letter issued to the Army Corp of Engineers on the McNary stair project. Staff will continue to work through the process with Northern Wasco PUD and will update the board, as information is available. Mike DeMott reviewed the recently posted BPA Post 2028 Record of Decision. There will be more discussion to come leading up to the 2025 contract signing.

AGENDA ITEMS:

- A. **POLICY 43 ELECTRICAL INTERCONNECTION REQUIREMENTS** - **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Miller to approve Policy 43 Electrical Interconnection Requirements as presented. Motion carried.
- B. **RESOLUTION 1850 APPOINTMENT OF HEARING OFFICER** - **MOTION**

was made by Commissioner Gunkel to adopt Resolution 1850 appointing Sarah Honkala as Klickitat PUD's Hearing Officer. Motion carried.

C. EXECUTIVE SESSION PER RCW 42.30.110 (1)(b) TO CONSIDER ACQUISITION OF REAL-ESTATE - President Knowles called for an Executive Session at 3:00 p.m. per RCW 42.30.110 (1)(b) noting that the session would last 60 minutes until 4:00 p.m., for the purpose of evaluating the acquisition of real-estate. At 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Knowles extended the session for 15 minutes until 4:15 p.m. The session ended at 4:15 p.m. No action was taken.

RCW 42.30.110 – Executive Session.

(1) *Nothing contained in this chapter may be construed to prevent a governing body from holding an executive session during a regular or special meeting:*

RECESS: At 4:16 p.m., Commissioner Knowles called for the meeting to recess until 1:00 p.m. Thursday, March 28, 2024 at which time we will hold an Executive Session to discuss a supply agreement.

RECONVEINED: At 1:00 p.m. March 28, 2024, Commissioner Miller reconvened the March 26, 2024 meeting at which time he called for an executive session.

PRESENT: Randy L. Knowles – President (via teleconference) and Douglas B. Miller - Secretary

STAFF PRESENT: Jim Smith - General Manager, Kevin Ricks - Renewable Energy Assets Manager, Brandon Walter - Water/Wastewater Superintendent, Russ Patton - Project Engineer.

D. EXECUTIVE SESSION PER RCW 42.30.110 (1)(iii) POTENTIAL LITIGATION CLIFFS WATER SUPPLY AGREEMENT - Commissioner Miller opened the Executive Session per RCW 42.30.110(1)(iii) legal risks discussion of a supply agreement noting that the executive session will begin at 1:00 p.m. and last for one hour, until 2:00 p.m. Legal council: Athan Tramountanas, Ogden Murphy Wallace (via teleconference) and Tom McDonald, Cascadia Law were present. The session ended at 2:00 p.m. No action was taken.

RCW 42.30.110 – Executive Session.

(1) *Nothing contained in this chapter may be construed to prevent a governing body from holding an executive session during a regular or special meeting:*

Adjourned - There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m. on March 28, 2024.

/S/
Randy L. Knowles, President

/S/
Dan G. Gunkel, Vice President

/S/
Douglas B. Miller, Secretary
Date Approved: April 9, 2024

/s/
Luann Mata, Executive Assistant