

**PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF COWLITZ COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Tuesday, April 8, 2025**

**John Searing Auditorium and Microsoft Teams**

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**Present:**

**COMMISSIONERS**

Dave Quinn, President

Bruce Pollock, Secretary

**STAFF**

Casey Kalal, Director of Operations

Chris Velat, Director of Power Management

Chris Willie, Operations Superintendent

Dever Haffner-Ratliffe, Regulatory Affairs Coordinator

Gary Huhta, General Manager

Heather Sorensen, Director of Customer Service & Compliance

Jacob Helton, Groundman

Marisa Heard, Manager of Employee Services

Monica Petterson, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board

Richard Hughes, General Counsel

Stacie Pederson, Risk Compliance Manager

Tim Kalimanis, Director of Technology

Trent Martin, Director of Accounting/CFO

**PUBLIC**

Steve Ferrell

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Pursuant to published Notice, Commissioner Quinn called the Regular Board meeting of the Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Cowlitz County, Washington to order at 2:00 p.m.

**2. CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO BOARD AGENDA**

It was moved by Commissioner Pollock and seconded by Commissioner Quinn to excuse Commissioner Dagleish from today's meeting due to illness.

The motion carried 2 to 0.

There were no changes to today's agenda.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Commissioner Pollock and seconded by Commissioner Quinn to approve the April 8, 2025 Board Agenda.

The motion carried 2 to 0.

**4. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES**

It was moved by Commissioner Pollock and seconded by Commissioner Quinn to approve the March 25, 2025 Regular Board Meeting minutes as written.

The motion carried 2 to 0.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS AND OTHER DISTRICT BUSINESS**

There was no public comment.

**6. MOTION TO RATIFY/APPROVE VOUCHERS/PAYROLL**

Approval of Vouchers in the amount of \$7,999,980.25. The Board reviewed expenditures of the District as required by RCW 42.24.180 for which payments were issued between March 27, 2025 and April 3, 2025, under the provisions of Resolution No. 2762.

It was moved by Commissioner Pollock and seconded by Commissioner Quinn to approve the ratification of the vouchers/payroll.

Risk Compliance Manager Stacie Pederson reported the majority of expenses this period was for power supply, materials and supplies, and taxes.

The motion carried 2 to 0.

**7. NEW EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTION**

Chris Willie introduced Groundman Jacob Helton.

**8. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

**BPA Rate Case:** General Manager Gary Huhta reported the BPA power rate case was settled a few weeks ago, and a settlement for the transmission rate case is imminent. BPA initially proposed a substantial increase in transmission rates, however with this settlement, the increase for the District will be a little less than expected at about 17.5%. BPA is asking parties to file by tomorrow any objections they may have in settling the case.

**BPA Staffing:** Another buyout offer is coming forth for federal employees, this time from the Department of Energy. One positive change with this offer is that BPA will have the ability to review the position of each employee who accepts the buyout and determine whether that position is of critical importance to the business. BPA will have more of a say in who stays and who goes. There was also a 90 day hiring freeze in late January that will expire later this month, though it is unclear if it will be extended. Several of the Northwest leadership groups have recently filed a letter with the Department of Energy requesting that BPA be excused from the hiring freeze so that BPA can get back to the business of connecting new power supply and expanding the transmission system.

**Bond Refunding:** Trent Martin previously addressed the opportunity to refund some of the District's outstanding bonds. We anticipated a resolution would be presented to the Board today, however we are postponing it until the next Board meeting as the review process is taking longer than expected. This will not affect the original bond sale schedule.

**Snowpack Update:** Swift No. 2 is doing well in this late season and is currently around 100% of normal. British Columbia is recovering slightly and is currently around 85% of normal; their April 1<sup>st</sup> official report will roll out in the next day or two. The Snake River basin is around 110% of normal. Based on these numbers, the Dalles is currently at 90% of normal for the January-July runoff period, which is an improvement over the last few years.

## **9. ACTION ITEMS**

### **9.1. Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2824 – Major Industrial Delivery Charge**

It was moved by Commissioner Pollock and seconded by Commissioner Quinn to approve Resolution No. 2824.

Director of Accounting and CFO Trent Martin explained the District currently has one Schedule 62 customer. The last rate adjustment for this rate class, a decrease, was in January 2023. Based on analysis of applicable costs, it was determined the Schedule 62 Demand Charge should be increased to recover increasing operating expenses and net costs associated with statewide clean energy requirements. In addition, the District currently has three Schedule 50 customers whose last rate increase was in January 2023. Based on analysis of applicable costs, it was determined the Schedule 50 Delivery Charge should be increased to recover costs including, but not limited to, power management, indirect transmission costs, customer service, energy efficiency, and administrative and general. Mr. Martin recommends the Board approve the proposed delivery charge rates as presented in Resolution No. 2824.

The motion carried 2 to 0.

## **10. COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

Commissioner Pollock attended the Port of Kalama and Port of Woodland commissioner meetings last week, and will attend Energy Northwest meetings next week, and the WPUA annual conference the following week.

## **11. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board convened into Executive Session at 2:39 p.m. pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i) for 30 minutes to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency. The Executive Session concluded at 3:09 p.m. and attendees reconvened into the Regular Board Meeting.

## **12. MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA**

It was moved by Commissioner Pollock and seconded by Commissioner Quinn to amend the agenda with the addition of the following action item:

Approval of Separation Agreement between an employee and the District.

Commissioner Quinn called for public comment. There was no public comment.

The motion carried 2 to 0.

**13. ACTION ITEM**

Motion to Approve Separation Agreement between an employee and the District.

It was moved by Commissioner Pollock and seconded by Commissioner Quinn that the Separation Agreement between an employee and the District dated March 28, 2025 be approved in accordance with the terms contained in the Agreement and that the General Manager be authorized to execute the Agreement.

Commissioner Quinn called for public comment. There was no public comment.

The motion carried 2 to 0.

**14. MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING**

It was moved by Commissioner Pollock and seconded by Commissioner Quinn to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 3:11 p.m.

The motion carried 2 to 0.

Attest:

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*David F. Quinn*  
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President

Signed by:  
*Bruce Pollock*  
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Secretary

DocuSigned by:  
*Duane Dalgleish*  
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Vice President

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*Monica Petterson*  
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Prepared by Monica Petterson  
Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board