

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

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Tuesday, April 22, 2025**

**John Searing Auditorium and Microsoft Teams**

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**Present:**

**COMMISSIONERS**

Dave Quinn, President

Duane Dalgleish, Vice President

Bruce Pollock, Secretary

**STAFF**

Casey Kalal, Director of Operations

Chris Velat, Director of Power Management

Dever Haffner-Ratliffe, Regulatory Affairs Coordinator

Gary Huhta, General Manager

Heather Sorensen, Director of Customer Service & Compliance

Jen Langdon, Energy Efficiency Manager

Jeremy Beck, Safety Manager

Lance Larwick, Director of Engineering

Monica Petterson, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board

Richard Hughes, General Counsel

Steve Taylor, Director of Regulatory & Regional Affairs

Tim Kalimanis, Director of Technology

Trent Martin, Director of Accounting/CFO

**PUBLIC**

Steve Ferrell

**GUEST**

Scott Bauer, Northwest Municipal Advisors

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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**

There were no changes to today's agenda.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Commissioner Dalgleish and seconded by Commissioner Pollock to approve the April 22, 2025 Board Agenda.

The motion carried 3 to 0

**4. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES**

It was moved by Commissioner Dagleish and seconded by Commissioner Pollock to approve the April 8, 2025 Regular Board Meeting minutes as written.

The motion carried 3 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 \$18,827,010.72. The Board reviewed expenditures of the District as required by RCW 42.24.180 for which payments were issued between April 10, 2025 and April 17, 2025, under the provisions of Resolution No. 2762.

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

Heather Sorensen, in her role as Auditor for the District, reported the majority of expenses were for power supply, taxes, payroll, and benefits. Other notable items included a payment for services related to wildfire mitigation, a power bill credit for a large industrial customer, conservation incentives, and Warm Neighbor pledges.

The motion carried 3 to 0.

**7. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

**Board Workshop:** General Manager Gary Huhta noted we had a workshop this morning to address two topics: the BPA Provider of Choice contract, and installation of 13.8 kV equipment at Swift No. 2. We will need to make a selection by the end of July of the products offered by BPA to its customers. We will hold a follow-on workshop of this topic on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Energy Northwest:** The Columbia Generating Station is currently offline for about 60 days for refueling and maintenance. Energy Northwest is replacing 256 of 764 nuclear fuel assemblies. To accomplish this work, they are increasing their workforce by 2,000 employees. Prior to going offline, the Columbia Generating Station achieved its 2<sup>nd</sup> longest operating run in its 40 year history. In addition, the Energy Northwest Board approved a \$700 million budget to advance work on an Energy Power Uprate which should yield an additional 162 MW of output by 2031. They also expect to gain an additional 24 MW of generation out of the project due to energy efficiency over their next three refueling outages.

**Miscellaneous Items:** The April issue of NWPPA's monthly Bulletin magazine features an article prepared by Chris Velat regarding our Swift No. 2 project.

Steve Taylor will fill in as Acting General Manager beginning tomorrow through next Tuesday while Gary is away from the office.

## **8. ACTION ITEMS**

### **8.1. Public Hearing for the Surplus of District Assets**

The Commission has set the Regular meeting of April 22, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at the Cowlitz PUD John Searing Auditorium and remotely via Microsoft Teams as the time and place to hold a Public Hearing to take public comment regarding the surplus of District vehicles

Commissioner Quinn opened the public hearing.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Quinn closed the public hearing.

### **8.2. Motion to Approve Staff Recommendation No. 10/4/22 – Surplus of District Assets**

It was moved by Commissioner Dalgleish and seconded by Commissioner Pollock to approve Staff Recommendation No. 10/4/22.

Heather Sorensen explained that the Surplus Committee reviewed requests received from staff, which were included in the Board meeting materials, and recommends that the fleet equipment and computer equipment detailed in the requests be declared surplus to the needs of the District and that they are disposed of in accordance with RCW 54.16.180.

The motion carried 3 to 0.

### **8.3. Motion to approve Resolution No. 2825 – Production System Revenue Refunding Bonds**

It was moved by Commissioner Dalgleish and seconded by Commissioner Pollock to approve Resolution No. 2825.

Director of Accounting and CFO Trent Martin explained we previously discussed with the Board the opportunity to refund some of our bonds that are past their call date. The proposed Resolution No. 2825 authorizes issuance of the bonds, outlines the terms, and delegates authority to the General Manager or CFO to issue the bonds in accordance with the terms in the Resolution. Since our previous discussion with the Board, interest rates have unfortunately increased. Approval of this Resolution will give us until the end of the year to execute on refunding which will allow us to continue monitoring market conditions. Scott Bauer of Northwest Municipal Advisors presented a briefing to the Board of the refinancing of the 2014 and 2015 production system revenue refunding bonds. After further discussion regarding rates and market conditions, the Board chose to defer approval of this Resolution to a later date when more favorable conditions exist. Board members requested the CFO continue with the process of refunding, and report back to them prior to incurring any further fees associated with this process.

Member of the public Steve Ferrell asked a clarifying question regarding this item, and Trent Martin provided a response.

General Counsel Rick Hughes suggested, based on the Board's desire to bring the Resolution back to the Board for possible approval if conditions are more favorable, a vote on the pending motion with the likely outcome that it would fail at the present time.

The motion to approve Resolution No. 2825 failed.

**9. STAFF REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

- 9.1. Safety Manager Jeremy Beck reported the District received the 2024 Safety Award of Excellence from the American Public Power Association (APPA). Over 200 utilities entered for this award and participants were ranked based on worker hours of exposure, incident rates, and the overall effectiveness of their safety programs and culture. The Board commended District employees for their commitment to safe work practices and congratulated them on this accomplishment.
- 9.2. District staff provided highlights and answered Commissioner questions regarding the March 2025 Operational Reports which were included in the Board meeting materials.

**10. COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

Commissioner Pollock attended Energy Northwest meetings last week and will attend WPUDA meetings this week.

**11. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session needed.

**12. MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING**

It was moved by Commissioner Dalglish and seconded by Commissioner Pollock to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 3:13 p.m.


The motion carried 3 to 0.

Attest:

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 President

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 Secretary

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 Vice President

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 Prepared by Monica Petterson  
 Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board