



**COWLITZ PUD BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING AGENDA
June 10, 2025, 2:00 p.m.
Cowlitz PUD Board Room & Microsoft Teams**

Board of Commissioners: Dave Quinn, Duane Dalglish, Bruce Pollock

The Cowlitz PUD Board of Commissioners meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month. Members of the public interested in participating via Microsoft Teams should contact Monica Petterson at mpetterson@cowlitzpud.org by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 9, 2025. To attend by phone, please call 1-323-484-8960 (Conference ID: 370 313 737#) at the time of the meeting. If you require a reasonable accommodation while in attendance at the Cowlitz PUD Board Meeting, please call Monica at (360) 501-9154 at least 72-hours prior to the meeting so that your needs can be addressed.

Please note that public comment is limited to three minutes per person.

1. Call to Order: 2:00 p.m.
2. Changes/Additions to Agenda
3. **Motion to Approve** Today's Board Agenda: Dave Quinn
4. **Motion to Approve** the PUD Board Meeting Minutes of May 27, 2025: Dave Quinn
5. Public Comment on Agenda Items and Other District Business
6. **Motion to Ratify/Approve** Vouchers & Payroll: Heather Sorensen
7. General Manager Report: Gary Huhta
8. Commissioner Reports & Upcoming Events

9. **Executive Session:** If needed, the Presiding Officer will follow the Executive Session Procedure included with this agenda. Following the Executive Session, the Board may take action in public related to the Executive Session.

10. **Motion to Adjourn** the Meeting

COWLITZ PUD EXECUTIVE SESSION PROCEDURE

The Board may meet in Executive Session for any reason authorized under the Open Public Meetings Act, RCW 42.30.110 (1), using the following procedure:

1. Announce the Executive Session

We will now adjourn into executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (1) for _____ minutes unless extended by the Presiding Officer. The purpose of the executive session is (choose one of the following):

- a. (i) To consider matters affecting national security;
(ii) To consider, if in compliance with any required data security breach disclosure under RCW [19.255.010](#) and [42.56.590](#), and with legal counsel available, information regarding the infrastructure and security of computer and telecommunications networks, security and service recovery plans, security risk assessments and security test results to the extent that they identify specific system vulnerabilities, and other information that if made public may increase the risk to the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of agency security or to information technology infrastructure or assets;
- b. To consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased price;
- c. To consider the minimum price at which real estate will be offered for sale or lease when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of decreased price. However, final action selling or leasing public property shall be taken in a meeting open to the public;
- d. To review negotiations on the performance of publicly bid contracts when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased costs;
- f. To receive and evaluate complaints or charges brought against a public officer or employee. However, upon the request of such officer or employee, a public hearing, or a meeting open to the public shall be conducted upon such complaint or charge;
- g. To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee. However, subject to RCW [42.30.140\(4\)](#), discussion by a governing body of salaries, wages, and other conditions of employment to be generally applied within the agency shall occur in a meeting open to the public, and when a governing body elects to take final action hiring, setting the salary of an individual employee or class of employees, or discharging or disciplining an employee, that action shall be taken in a meeting open to the public;
- i. To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or 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

2. Return to Open Public Meeting

- a. Once the session concludes, the board will return to open meeting.
- b. If any action is taken it must take place in open meeting.
- c. Action may not take place earlier than the time for which the executive session was to conclude, including any extensions announced by the Presiding Officer.

Note: The foregoing is not a complete list of allowed purposes to hold an executive session under RCW 42.30.110 (1) but represents the most likely purposes for Cowlitz PUD.

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF COWLITZ COUNTY, WASHINGTON**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS**

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

John Searing Auditorium and Microsoft Teams

Present:**COMMISSIONERS**

Dave Quinn, President

Duane Dalgleish, Vice President

Bruce Pollock, Secretary

STAFF

Alice Dietz, Communication & Public Relations Manager

Casey Kalal, Director of Operations

Chris Velat, Director of Power Management

Dever Haffner-Ratliffe, Regulatory Affairs Coordinator

Doug Thomas, Manager of Transmission & Distribution

Gary Huhta, General Manager

Geo Reyes, Engineering Intern

Junior Gonzalez-Jimenez, Engineering Intern

Lance Larwick, Director of Engineering

Marisa Heard, Manager of Employee Services

Monica Petterson, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board

Richard Hughes, General Counsel

Stacie Pederson, Risk Compliance Manager

Steve Taylor, Director of Regulatory & Regional Affairs

Tim Kalimanis, Director of Technology

Trent Martin, Director of Accounting/CFO

PUBLIC

None

GUESTS

Catherine Holm, Gordon Thomas Honeywell

Diana Carlen, Gordon Thomas Honeywell

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 May 27, 2025 Board Agenda.

The motion carried 3 to 0

4. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Dalglish and seconded by Commissioner Pollock to approve the May 13, 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 \$23,796,213.92. The Board reviewed expenditures of the District as required by RCW 42.24.180 for which payments were issued between May 15, 2025 and May 22, 2025, under the provisions of Resolution No. 2762.

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

Risk Compliance Manager Stacie Pederson reported the majority of expenses were for power supply, conservation incentives, taxes, payroll, benefits, outside professional services, and materials. Included in the power supply costs was a payment for the acquisition of Lakeview Green Energy's share of the Harvest Wind Project.

The motion carried 3 to 0.

7. NEW EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTIONS

Doug Thomas introduced Engineering Interns Geo Reyes and Junior Gonzalez-Jimenez.

8. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

CEIP Public Process: General Manager Gary Huhta reported the CEIP public process opened on May 14th, and the community survey is now available on the District's website. We have received 44 survey responses so far, and expect to receive more following the mailing of 9,000 postcards to a targeted customer base.

Swift No. 2 Activity: Divers were recently brought in to remove woody debris from the canal, and to inspect the concrete slabs for leakage and apply sealant to the joints.

Annual maintenance of the two hydro units was recently completed, and each unit was down for about 10 days.

FERC will be onsite in June to conduct an inspection, their first in several years.

Property Purchase Update: We are nearing completion of the recent Board approved purchase of property at Columbia Boulevard in Longview. We received a clean environmental review and are now awaiting results of the appraisal.

Artificial Intelligence (AI): We previously had been taking a watchful approach to AI technology and had not yet adopted it for District use. However, with the technology advancing so rapidly, we have updated our

Acceptable Use Procedure to allow for the use of Microsoft's Copilot AI tool, and are now beginning to train staff on how to use it. This tool is now an embedded feature within certain software tools the District utilizes regularly and cannot be turned off. Our technology department is continuing its review and data governance of this technology with the goal to keep it contained within the District's own systems.

Board Workshop: We will hold a workshop on June 10th to continue our discussion of the BPA Provider of Choice contract. We hope this to be the last of these workshops as we will need to make a product decision soon. If the Board is amenable, we will present the District's product decision for approval at the June 24th Board meeting.

PPC FUEL Meeting: The next PPC FUEL meeting will be held on June 12th. Commissioners interested in attending should contact Monica Petterson for registration.

9. ACTION ITEMS

9.1. Motion to Approve Staff Recommendation No. 11/5/27 – Administrative Policies Update

It was moved by Commissioner Dalglish and seconded by Commissioner Pollock to approve Staff Recommendation No. 11/5/27.

Executive Assistant Monica Petterson explained the Administrative Policies have been updated and reviewed by staff and the District's General Counsel as part of the annual review and update cycle. Updates were made to the Rate Administration Policy, Public Records Act Policy, Records Management Policy, Communications Policy, and Workplace Violence Policy and consisted of clarification of language, removal of language no longer needed, job title changes, and other minor cleanup. The term "Customer" was also added to the list of definitions and is defined as a ratepayer or any other person or entity that the District is legally obligated to provide electric service.

The motion carried 3 to 0.

10. STAFF REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

10.1. Director of Regulatory and Regional Affairs Steve Taylor, and Diana Carlen of Gordon Thomas Honeywell, provided a recap of the 2025 Legislative Session. They noted that of the 2,535 bills introduced, 432 passed the legislature and were sent to the Governor for signature. They also reviewed Washington's political landscape, highlights of the operating and capital and transportation budgets, priority bills for the District, other bills of interest, and an overview of employment/labor legislation and tax legislation.

10.2. District staff provided highlights and answered Commissioner questions regarding the April 2025 Operational Reports which were included in the Board meeting materials.

11. COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Commissioner Pollock will attend a Mason PUD No. 3 Board meeting next week on behalf of WPUDA.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session needed.

13. MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING

It was moved by Commissioner Dalglish and seconded by Commissioner Pollock to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 3:46 p.m.

The motion carried 3 to 0.

Attest:

President

Secretary

Vice President

Prepared by Monica Petterson
Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board

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