

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF COWLITZ COUNTY, WASHINGTON

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, August 12, 2025

Cowlitz PUD Board Room and Microsoft Teams

Present:

COMMISSIONERS

Dave Quinn, President

Duane Dalglish, Vice President

Bruce Pollock, Secretary

STAFF

Alice Dietz, Communication & Public Relations Manager

Ashley Bottassi, Customer Service Representative

Chris Velat, Director of Power Management

Dan Tuominen, Standards Engineer

Dever Haffner-Ratliffe, Regulatory Affairs Coordinator

Gary Huhta, General Manager

Heather Sorensen, Director of Customer Service & Compliance

Lance Larwick, Director of Engineering

Marisa Heard, Manager of Employee Services

Micah Donaldson, GIS Technician

Monica Petterson, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board

Paul Stephenson, GIS Supervisor

Stacie Pederson, Risk Compliance Manager

Tami Ingalls, Purchasing Manager

Tim Kalimanis, Director of Technology

Trent Martin, Director of Accounting/CFO

Richard Hughes, General Counsel

Whitney Seeton, Customer Service Specialist

PUBLIC

None

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 the meeting agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Commissioner Dalglish and seconded by Commissioner Pollock to approve the August 12, 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 July 22, 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 \$9,210,023.39. The Board reviewed expenditures of the District as required by RCW 42.24.180 for which payments were issued between July 24, 2025 and August 7, 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 the customary items, as well as maintenance work at Swift No. 2, and a large conservation payment for a boiler fan upgrade for a major industrial customer.

The motion carried 3 to 0.

7. NEW EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTIONS AND EMPLOYEE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Heather Sorensen introduced Customer Service Representative Ashley Bottassi, and Customer Service Specialist Whitney Seeton.

Tim Kalimanis acknowledged GIS Technician Micah Donaldson's acceptance into the Navy OTC.

8. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

BPA Updates: General Manager Gary Huhta reported BPA is releasing their draft Contract High Water Mark numbers this week.

BPA Administrator John Hairston attended a recent PPC meeting and indicated BPA is moving forward with the implementation of Markets+ with an anticipated go live date in October 2027. Developments regarding the Markets+ lawsuit are not expected anytime soon as the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is one of the busiest in the nation.

Customer Appreciation BBQ: We held a successful ninth annual customer BBQ last week and had a steady flow of customers in attendance.

Weekend for Warm Neighbor: Tickets for our annual Eat for Heat event are now available for purchase on the PUD's website. The event will take place on Thursday, September 11th, and meal kits can be picked up at the PUD's 12th Avenue location, or at designated locations in Castle Rock and Woodland. This year we are partnering with FISH for assistance in assembling the kits. The following day, Friday, September 12th, is the 2nd Annual Warm Neighbor Golf Tournament. All teams have been filled, and sponsorships are doing well and have already surpassed last year's sponsorships.

Property Insurance Renewal Update: Risk Compliance Manager Stacie Pederson reported things are looking good for this year's renewal, and we are expecting a double digit decrease in premiums. Several factors contributed to this year's favorable rates including the softened property insurance market, our efforts with the Swift No. 2 site visit last summer, staff's efforts in preparing a renewal presentation with information about Cowlitz PUD, and our in person meetings with the insurance carriers. We are looking at a slight increase in our terrorism policy, however the amount should be minimal. Ms. Pederson will present a renewal recommendation at the next Board meeting.

Wildfire Training: The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provided wildfire training last week to personnel at our Operations Center. The DNR indicated that so far, the 2025 wildfire season has seen less wildfires than previous recent years at this point in the season. However, August, September, and October still pose risks.

PNW Lineman Rodeo: We had a Cowlitz PUD team participate in the Pacific Northwest Lineman Rodeo in late July and they finished in the top 20. The team participants included Devin Wannamaker, Thomas Gustin, and Trent Beavers. Mr. Huhta expressed appreciation for their volunteer time during a weekend.

9. ACTION ITEMS

9.1. Motion to Approve Staff Recommendation No. 16/8/12 – Award of Contract for Auditorium Renovation Project

It was moved by Commissioner Dagleish and seconded by Commissioner Pollock to approve Staff Recommendation No. 16/8/12.

Manager of Employee Services Marisa Heard explained the District will be renovating the former auditorium space to accommodate the growing Power Management Group. The District solicited bids through the advertised bid process for this project, and bids were received from twelve contractors. Of the bids received, Unitus Services of Vancouver, Washington submitted the lowest, responsive bid and was found to meet the criteria of the project. Following a review of references, staff recommend the contract be awarded to Unitus Services for the auditorium renovation project.

The motion carried 3 to 0.

9.2. Motion to Approve Staff Recommendation No. 17/8/12 – Award for Purchase of Distribution Transformers

It was moved by Commissioner Dagleish and seconded by Commissioner Pollock to approve Staff Recommendation No. 17/8/12.

Purchasing Manager Tami Ingalls and Standards Engineer Dan Tuominen explained the District solicited bids through the advertised bid process for the purchase of distribution transformers. Of the ten bids received, General Pacific, with manufacturing by Ermco, was found to be the most responsive and responsible bid. Their proposal met all requirements and offered the most favorable lead times. One bidder submitted a lower bid, however the bid was only for three-phase transformers with notably longer lead times and a shorter warranty. Staff recommend the contract be awarded to General Pacific for the annual supply of approximately 545 single-phase and 24 three-phase distribution transformers. The contract will be for a three year term, with an option to extend for two additional years. By entering into this contract, there is no longer a need for Resolution No. 2786 in which the Board previously declared an emergency existed with regard to an industry-wide distribution transformer shortage. Staff will recommend at separate meeting to rescind that resolution.

The motion carried 3 to 0.

10. COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Commissioner Dagleish will attend Kelso/Longview chamber events tonight and tomorrow, and a town hall hosted by 3rd Congressional District Representative Marie Gluesenkamp Perez on Thursday.

Commissioner Pollock will participate in an Energy Northwest call tomorrow, and the Woodland Chamber golf tournament on Thursday.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session needed.

12. MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING

It was moved by Commissioner Dagleish and seconded by Commissioner Pollock to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 2:44 p.m.

The motion carried 3 to 0.

Attest:

DocuSigned by:
David F. Quinn
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President

Signed by:
Bruce Pollock
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Secretary

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Duane Dagleish
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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