

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF COWLITZ COUNTY, WASHINGTON

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, September 9, 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

Amanda Farrar, Environmental Compliance Manager

Casey Kalal, Director of Operations

Chris Velat, Director of Power Management

Dever Haffner-Ratliffe, Regulatory Affairs Coordinator

Devin Henthorn, Customer Engineering Manager

Gary Huhta, General Manager

Heather Sorensen, Director of Customer Service & Compliance

Jose Bueno, Engineering Drafting Technician

Lance Larwick, Director of Engineering

Lorraine Clark, GIS Technician

Monica Petterson, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board

Paul Stephenson, GIS Supervisor

Richard Hughes, General Counsel

Scott Caleen, Environmental & Power Resource Analyst

Steve Taylor, Director of Regulatory & Regional Affairs

Tim Kalimanis, Director of Technology

Trent Martin, Director of Accounting/CFO

PUBLIC

Mike Kayser

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 September 9, 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 August 26, 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 \$19,907,605.02. The Board reviewed expenditures of the District as required by RCW 42.24.180 for which payments were issued between August 28, 2025 and September 4, 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 a scheduled bond payment, taxes, power supply, payroll, and benefits.

The motion carried 3 to 0.

7. NEW EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTIONS

Devin Henthorn introduced Engineering Drafting Technician Jose Bueno.

Paul Stephenson introduced GIS Technician Lorraine Clark.

Amanda Farrar introduced Environmental and Power Resource Analyst Scott Caleen.

8. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

BPA Residential Exchange Program (REP): General Manager Gary Huhta reported BPA's REP was part of the 1980 Northwest Power Act and was designed to spread the wealth of the low-cost hydro system. Normally BPA would determine benefits to the IOUs, however the 2012 REP settlement locked in a fixed payment stream. With the Provider of Choice contracts, there is no defined settlement or exchange. BPA is now working to resolve this by conducting a series of public workshops to develop a REP Residential Purchase and Sale Agreement for IOUs. The initial workshop will take place next week and BPA has invited the public utilities and IOUs to participate in the discussion.

2025 Solar Credits: The Washington State University Energy Office compiles meter readings and data that is used in determining credits for solar customers. They recently informed us their review process will not be completed for another two weeks. District staff will distribute credits to our solar customers once we receive the data.

Board Workshop: A workshop will be held with the Board the morning of October 14, 2025 to discuss long range planning for the operations campus. If time allows, we may have another one or two topics on the agenda.

Weekend for Warm Neighbor: The annual Weekend for Warm Neighbor events will take place this week. Eat for Heat will be held on Thursday followed by the golf tournament on Friday. Results of both events will be reported to the Board once final figures are tallied.

9. ACTION ITEMS

- 9.1. Trent Martin, Director of Accounting/CFO, reported that the District's proposed 2026 budget does not include a request for a tax levy. Staff recommend the Board approve that notice be sent to the Cowlitz County Commissioners that no tax levy will be requested.

Open Public Hearing

Commissioner Quinn opened the Statutory Budget Hearing to take public comment on whether it will be necessary to request a property tax levy for the year 2026. There were no comments from the public.

Close Public Hearing

Commissioner Quinn closed the public hearing.

It was moved by Commissioner Dalglish and seconded by Commissioner Pollock to authorize notice be sent to the Cowlitz County Commissioners that no tax levy will be requested for the year 2026 and that the General Manager or his designee be authorized to sign the notice.

The motion carried 3 to 0.

- 9.2. Motion to Adopt 2026 Budget.

It was moved by Commissioner Dalglish and seconded by Commissioner Pollock to adopt the 2026 Budget.

Trent Martin explained staff is requesting adoption of the 2026 Budget following recent budget workshops with the Board in which staff reviewed the District's goals and financial constraints, the overall preliminary budget, labor costs, operating expenses, capital, and no new debt. Based on efforts and analysis over the last several months, staff recommend adoption of the 2026 Budget as presented.

The motion carried 3 to 0.

- 9.3. Motion to Approve Staff Recommendation No. 20/9/9 – Customer Service Policies Update.

It was moved by Commissioner Dalglish and seconded by Commissioner Pollock to approve Staff Recommendation No. 20/9/9.

Heather Sorensen explained the Customer Service Policies have been reviewed by staff in accordance with the annual review and update cycle. The Policies were last approved by the Board on October 22, 2024. General policy revisions included comprehensive rewording of all policies to enhance legal clarity and ensure consistent formatting and tone throughout. In addition to the revision of existing policies, the following new policies were added: SMS Communication, Transformer Rate, Low-Income Net Metering Rate, and Residential Account Deposits.

The motion carried 3 to 0.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session needed.

11. MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING

It was moved by Commissioner Dalglish and seconded by Commissioner Pollock to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 3:59 p.m.

The motion carried 3 to 0.

Attest:

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David F. Quinn

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President

Signed by:
Bruce Pollock

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Secretary

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Duane Dalglish

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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