



**COWLITZ PUD BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING AGENDA
February 10, 2026, 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, with the exception of holidays and other conflicts. 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, February 9, 2026. To attend by phone, please call 1-323-484-8960 (Conference ID: 370 313 737#) at the time of the meeting. If you require reasonable accommodation while attending 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 January 27, 2026:
Dave Quinn
5. Public Comment on Agenda Items and Other District Business
6. **Motion to Ratify/Approve** Vouchers & Payroll: Heather Sorensen
7. New Employee Introduction
 - Doug Thomas to introduce Utility Contracts Coordinator Grant Keirnan

8. General Manager Report: Gary Huhta

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, January 27, 2026

Cowlitz PUD Board Room and Microsoft Teams

Present:

COMMISSIONERS

Dave Quinn, President

Duane Dalgleish, Vice President

Bruce Pollock, Secretary

STAFF

Alice Dietz, Communication & Public Relations Manager

Chris Velat, Director of Power Management

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

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

Mike Crawford

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 Dalgleish and seconded by Commissioner Pollock to approve the January 27, 2026 Board Agenda.

The motion carried 3 to 0.

4. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Dalgleish and seconded by Commissioner Pollock to approve the January 13, 2026 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 \$25,505,695.03. The Board reviewed expenditures of the District as required by RCW 42.24.180 for which payments were issued between January 15, 2026 and January 22, 2026, under the provisions of Resolution No. 2762.

It was moved by Commissioner Dalgleish 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 disbursements and payroll included in this report have been reviewed and approved in accordance with RCW 42.24.180. Invoices have been authorized by management, verified against supporting documentation, and pre-audited by designated staff for accuracy, proper coding, and compliance with the District's policies. Staff requests the Board approve the ratification of the vouchers and payroll as presented.

The motion carried 3 to 0.

7. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Silverlake Outage: General Manager Gary Huhta reported there was a significant outage in Silverlake over the weekend involving a DUI driver who hit a power pole on Spirit Lake Highway. The accident occurred around 9:00 p.m. and resulted in one fatality and a power outage affecting about 3,000 customers. PUD crews were able to restore power around midnight. The Gardners Corner substation, however, is currently deenergized due to a relaying issue, and we are performing a dissolved gas analysis to ensure the transformer was not damaged. The test has been expedited and, if results come back clean, the substation should be reenergized tomorrow.

KWRL Transportation: KWRL had a ribbon cutting ceremony today to celebrate the purchase of 14 electric school buses. Our Customer Support Manager Brent Arnold was in attendance at that event.

Distribution Transformers: Director of Accounting and CFO Trent Martin reported things have improved with the supply of 3-phase transformers and we can now order them freely from ERMCO. We previously were limited to three transformers per quarter due to the shortage.

Columbia River Gorge Pump Storage: FERC recently approved a license for a pump storage system proposed by Rye Development. Construction is expected to begin in 2027 with operations beginning in 2032. The project still faces challenges regarding the site and its historic and cultural ties.

Seattle City Light Leadership Change: The Mayor of Seattle recently appointed Dennis McLerran as the new CEO and General Manager of Seattle City Light to replace former CEO and General Manager Dawn Lindell. Mr. McLerran previously worked for Cascadia Law Group as an environmental attorney.

8. ACTION ITEMS

8.1. Motion to Approve Staff Recommendation No. 2/1/27 – D&O Insurance Renewal

It was moved by Commissioner Dalglish and seconded by Commissioner Pollock to approve Staff Recommendation No. 2/1/27.

Risk Compliance Manager Stacie Pederson reported the District's Directors and Officers (D&O) liability insurance coverage is due for renewal effective February 1, 2026. Along with our brokers, District staff reviewed current levels of coverage and found they are appropriate in addressing the District's risk in the areas of D&O and Fiduciary liability. The deductible amount was also found to be balanced in keeping our premium at a reasonable level. The District has bound its D&O program with AEGIS since 2024, and they have offered a flat renewal this year with no change in coverage. We will also see a credit this year in the amount of \$1,351 as part of AEGIS's Continuity Credit benefit. Ms. Pederson recommends the Board approve binding coverage for the 2026 D&O program with AEGIS at the quoted price of \$153,450 including taxes and fees.

The motion carried 3 to 0.

8.2. Motion to Approve Staff Recommendation No. 3/1/27 – Liability Insurance Renewal

It was moved by Commissioner Dalglish and seconded by Commissioner Pollock to approve Staff Recommendation No. 3/1/27.

Stacie Pederson reported the District's liability insurance coverage is due for renewal effective February 1, 2026. There continues to be no competition to the liability coverage offered by Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange for both pricing and customized coverage for the District's line of business. For this renewal period, Federated quoted our primary coverage at \$467,872, which includes a \$20M umbrella, current sub limits, and no wildfire exclusion. We were also able to obtain \$20M in excess liability that includes wildfire coverage for a premium of \$471,066. We filled the remaining \$15M in excess liability, excluding wildfire coverage for a premium of \$124,000, bringing the District's total liability limit to \$55M. In addition, we will receive a cash equity credit of \$14,514 toward this renewal as part of an equity account and continued profit sharing offered by Federated to its members. Ms. Pederson recommends the Board approve renewal of the liability policy with Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange and the excess liability layers for a total not to exceed \$1,093,424 including broker fees and the Federated cash equity payment.

The motion carried 3 to 0

8.3. Motion to Approve Staff Recommendation No. 4/1/27 – Nine Canyon Wind Project Life Extension Offtake Letter of Intent

It was moved by Commissioner Dalglish and seconded by Commissioner Pollock to approve Staff Recommendation No. 4/1/27.

Director of Accounting and Finance Trent Martin explained the District is a participant in the Nine Canyon Wind Project owned and operated by Energy Northwest (ENW). The Project was constructed in three phases, and we are currently contracted for 4.16% of Phase 1. ENW is exploring refurbishment of the existing turbines through a Life of Extension Project (LEP) which will require upfront funding with recovery via production tax credits over ten years. The LEP would result in a Third Amendment and Restated Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). With the LEP, ENW is requesting current participants interested in continuing with the Project to sign a Letter of Intent (LOI) indicating their desired level of participation. The LOI will serve as a basis for further discussions and negotiations between ENW and the District regarding the LEP, but does not commit the District to entering into a new PPA. Based on information provided to date, staff believe the LEP would benefit the District by securing a Washington State carbon compliant resource at favorable pricing. Staff

recommends the Board authorize the General Manager or his designee to sign and deliver to ENW the LOI by February 6, 2026, indicating up to 100% participation in the Project phases, subject to further discussion with ENW staff. Any decision regarding a PPA would come before the Board at a later date.

The motion carried 3 to 0

9. STAFF REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

9.1. District staff provided highlights and answered Commissioner questions regarding the December 2025 Operational Reports, which were included in the Board meeting materials. Staff also provided a 2025 year in review as part of this month's reports.

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 4:02 p.m.

The motion carried 3 to 0.

Attest:

President

Secretary

Vice President

Prepared by Monica Petterson
Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board