

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF COWLITZ COUNTY, WASHINGTON

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

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

Chris Velat, Director of Power Management

Dever Haffner-Ratliffe, Regulatory Affairs Coordinator

Doug Thomas, Manager of Transmission & Distribution

Gary Huhta, General Manager

Grant Keirnan, Utility Contracts Coordinator

Heather Sorensen, Director of Customer Service & Compliance

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

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 February 10, 2026 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 January 27, 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 \$2,129,191.64. The Board reviewed expenditures of the District as required by RCW 42.24.180 for which payments were issued between January 29, 2026 and February 5, 2026, 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 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. NEW EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTION

Doug Thomas introduced Utility Contracts Coordinator Grant Keirnan.

8. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

February Outage Data: General Manager Gary Huhta reported February outage data is currently trending 10% above average. An outage in the Coal Creek area last week affected about 1,000 customers for 2.4 hours.

Snowpack Update: The Lewis River Basin is currently 36% of normal, not a good outcome so far into February. The Dalles January through July runoff forecast is at 92%, primarily due to stronger snowpack conditions in the British Columbia Rockies. Meteorologist Cliff Mass is forecasting a low-pressure trough that could result in some snowpack for Oregon and Northern California.

BPA Administrator Change: With the departure of BPA Administrator John Hairston, it is expected that Suzanne Cooper will be named the Acting Administrator. The Department of Energy and the Northwest Delegation will work together to appoint a permanent administrator.

Columbia River Systems Operations Litigation: A hearing was held last Friday in Portland District Court and litigants were instructed by the judge to pursue negotiated settlements within the next two weeks. He will then issue a ruling on February 23rd.

Washington State Legislation Update: Director of Regulatory and Regional Affairs Steve Taylor reported Representative Sharlett Mena of Tacoma is the primary sponsor of a bill to establish a statewide low-income energy assistance program to be administered by the Department of Commerce. House Bill 2373 would clarify CETA requirements where utilities would offer direct bill assistance programs. Most utilities oppose this bill as the assistance would come from utility operating funds. WPUDA has engaged with Representative Mena and received an invitation to participate in a stakeholder meeting in Olympia to

discuss the bill and related concerns. Utilities are in support of establishing some type of program but would like to see funding come from the state. The bill is ready for a floor vote in the House, then will go to the Senate.

Upcoming Board Workshops: A Board workshop will be held on March 10th to discuss the BPA Provider of Choice Contract High Water Mark and Tier 2 election, updates to the New Large Single Load policy, and a facilities update regarding the operations campus and future board meeting space. We also have a Strategic Planning workshop scheduled for March 26th.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session needed.

10. MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING

It was moved by Commissioner Dalgleish and seconded by Commissioner Pollock to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 2:46 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

DocuSigned by:
Duane Dalgleish
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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