

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 8, 2022**  
**OF**  
**PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1**  
**OF**  
**THURSTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

The first regular meeting for March 2022 of the Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County was called to order on March 8, 2022, commencing at 5:00 p.m. Commissioners Linda Oosterman, Russell E. Olsen, and Chris Stearns were present for the virtual meeting hosted via Zoom video conferencing. The following personnel were also present for the meeting:

- John Weidenfeller, General Manager (GM)
- Julie Parker, Assistant General Manager (AGM)
- Kim Gubbe, Director of Planning and Compliance (DPC)
- Jim Campbell, Director of Field Operations (DFO)
- TaSeana Tartt, Finance and Customer Service Manager (FCSM)
- Ruth Clemens, Administrative Services Manager (ASM)
- Joseph A. Rehberger, Chief Legal Counsel
- Kurin Miller, Clerk to the Board

**Call to Order:**

Commissioner Olsen called the regular meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Agenda:**

**Commissioner Stearns made a motion to approve the agenda as presented: Commissioner Oosterman seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.**

**Consent Calendar:**

Approval of Minutes: February 22, 2022

Prequalification of Contractors: None

Correspondence: None

Voucher Approval:

- 1) Accounts Payables: February 23, 2022, March 2, 2022
- 2) Payroll: March 4, 2022

Other:

- 1) Resolution 22-07, A/V Solutions Contract Award
- 2) Resolution 22-08, Engineering Contract Amendment – Timberline Village (628) Water System
- 3) Emergency Declaration – Waiver of Competitive Bidding Requirements for Countrywood Estates (680) Water System

**Approval of Consent Calendar:**

**Commissioner Oosterman made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented: Commissioner Stearns seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.**

**Public Comment:** None

**Information or Discussion of Operations/Policy Issues:**

**Discussion – COVID-19 Updates**

ASM Clemens reported on the end of the statewide face mask mandate and staff's work in preparing to reopen to the public. Commissioner Olsen reported on an update for state agencies, and he asked about staff's direction regarding customer interaction, however, this topic was discussed later in the meeting.

**Discussion – Broadband and Telecommunications**

ASM Clemens reported that NoaNet submitted their broadband feasibility assessment. Staff will be reviewing this report in order to present at the next regular Commission meeting. Commissioner Stearns recapped a conversation with the ASM on a broadband/cable provider that has expanded its service area into Thurston County.

**Discussion – WPUA March Association Meetings**

GM Weidenfeller presented the agenda for the WPUA Association Meetings that are scheduled for March 16, 2022 through March 18, 2022.

**Discussion – AWWA Fly-In, Washington, D.C. April 27, 28, 2022 Wednesday and Thursday -**

GM Weidenfeller spoke about the American Water Works Association (AWWA) fly-in event to take place in Washington, D.C. Commissioner Stearns requested that he attend this event in-person as part of the delegation from the Washington Water Utilities Council (WWUC). Both Commissioner Olsen and Commissioner Oosterman supported Commissioner Stearns' decision to attend.

**Discussion – Administrative Clothing Order**

The Clerk to the Board briefly discussed the clothing order for 2022, and GM Weidenfeller added additional information to the discussion.

**Discussion – PFAS Testing Results and Recommendations for Treatment**

DPC Gubbe presented information on the recently completed PFAS testing of 89 wells owned and operated by the District, including the costs, additional sampling/monitoring, and results. Commissioner Olsen asked about tracing the contaminants to allow for cost recovery. Commissioner Stearns spoke about contaminant levels as set by Washington State and lobbying efforts regarding these contaminant levels. Commissioner Oosterman asked about testing for a specific District-owned water system and resampling. DPC Gubbe addressed the Commissioners' questions.

Commissioner Olsen asked about the testing performed by LOTT Clean Water Alliance for reclaimed water used in Thurston County. Commissioner Oosterman asked about correspondence to customers with wells for which PFAS contaminants have been detected. The Board discussed this topic at length with GM Weidenfeller and DPC Gubbe. Commissioner Olsen will speak with the head of LOTT Clean Water Alliance regarding testing on reclaimed water, and the Board directed staff regarding correspondence to customers on water systems in which PFAS contaminants have been detected.

**Discussion – Return to In-Person Public Meetings**

Commissioner Olsen discussed returning to either regular (in-person) or hybrid Commission meetings in April 2022 with the Board. The Board directed staff to prepare to resume in-person public Commission meetings for the first meeting in April, scheduled for April 12, 2022. Staff was also directed to create signage regarding vaccination and booster requirements for members of the public that may attend a

public meeting. ASM Clemens presented additional information on the District's operational efforts for reopening to the general public.

**First Reading – Resolution 22-09, Policy Amendment – Purchasing Authority**

FCSM Tartt introduced Resolution 22-09 which would adopt revisions to the District's Policy 100-023, Purchasing Authority Levels.

**First Reading – Resolution 22-10, Amending SEPA Authority**

AGM Parker introduced Resolution 22-10 which would amend the District's existing SEPA policies and procedures.

**Action/Approval Items:**

**Resolution 22-06, Employee Job Classifications and Salary Ranges**

GM Weidenfeller presented Resolution 22-06 which would add one new position (Engineer III) to the Employee Job Classifications and Salary Ranges. **Commissioner Stearns made a motion to approve Resolution 22-06 as presented; Commissioner Oosterman seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.**

**Commissioner Signatures/Break:** None

**Presentations:**

GM Weidenfeller reported on several topics, including supply issues experienced by the District, staff seeking additional funding for customer assistance programs, the Department of Ecology's budget proviso, and bills proposed in the Washington State Legislature. Commissioner Stearns added information regarding the Legislature and related funding. Commissioner Oosterman asked about increasing involvement in the Washington Water Utilities Council (WWUC), and GM Weidenfeller addressed the Commissioner's question.

FCSM Tartt relayed information on a customer's request to relinquish water service at their property in Thurston County. GM Weidenfeller added to this topic and addressed the follow up to be completed for this customer. The Board briefly discussed this topic.

DFO Campbell reported on water service calls recently received by Field Operations staff. GM Weidenfeller reported on vandalism at the Tanglewilde-Thompson Place water system's pump houses.

**Commissioner Topics, Discussions and Reports:**

Commissioner Stearns reported on the meetings he has recently attended, including the Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) and WPUA Legislative update calls. Commissioner Oosterman has a few upcoming full-day meetings. Commissioner Olsen relayed the date of the next Utility Rate Advisory Committee (URAC) on March 14, 2022.

**Executive Session:**

**At 6:30 p.m., Commissioner Olsen announced that the Board would enter into an Executive Session 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, as authorized by RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i), for 15 minutes until 6:45 p.m. At 6:45 p.m., the Executive Session was closed, and the regular meeting resumed. No decisions were made by the Board during the Executive Session. Legal counsel was present for the Executive Session.

**Adjournment:** Commissioner Oosterman made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Stearns seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

**Assignments:**

- 1) Coordinate with Commissioner Stearns so that he may attend the AWWA Fly-In event.
- 2) Follow up with Commissioners if their clothing orders are not received by Friday, March 11, 2022.
- 3) Commissioner Olsen will coordinate with the GM to contact the LOTT Clean Alliance Executive Director regarding the well injection site near the Lazy Acres (351) water system.
- 4) Send out a letter to customers on PUD water systems that have PFAS detections or have test results above the State Action Level (SAL) after the test results are back from April testing.
- 5) If there are any PFAS levels above the SAL seek grant funding to install treatment at the earliest possible time.
- 6) Resume public PUD Commission meetings at the first meeting in April, which is April 12, 2022. Post a sign notifying the public that vaccinations and booster shots are required to attend meetings.

*Russell E Olsen*

[Russell E Olsen \(Apr 4, 2022 10:00 PDT\)](#)

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Russell E. Olsen, Commissioner and President

Attest:

*Linda L Oosterman*

[Linda L Oosterman \(Apr 11, 2022 15:31 PDT\)](#)

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Linda Oosterman, Commissioner and Secretary









# Minutes 03082022

Final Audit Report

2022-04-11

Created:	2022-03-23
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