

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 2023
OF
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF
THURSTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

The first regular Commission meeting for December 2023 of the Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County was called to order on December 12, 2023. The meeting commenced at 5:00 p.m. Commissioners Chris Stearns, Linda Oosterman, and Russell E. Olsen were present for the hybrid meeting hosted via Zoom video conferencing and in-person at District Headquarters, located at 1230 Ruddell Road SE, Lacey, Washington 98503. District personnel present at the meeting include:

- John Weidenfeller, General Manager
- Julie Parker, Assistant General Manager
- Jim Campbell, Director of Field Operations (DFO)
- Kurin Miller, Administrative Services Coordinator (ASC) and Clerk to the Board
- Kalelia Gipson, Customer Service Representative (CSR) and Associate Clerk to the Board

Call to Order:

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

Approval of Agenda:

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

Consent Calendar:

Approval of Minutes: November 28, 2023

Prequalification of Contractors: None

Correspondence: None

Voucher Approval:

- 1) Accounts Payables: November 30, 2023, December 7, 2023
- 2) Payroll: December 5, 2023

Other:

- 1) Resolution 23-57, Change Order Authorization, PFAS Scope for DWSRF Grant
- 2) Authorization for Commissioner Olsen to Attend WPUWA Washington DC Congressional Rally, February 25-29, 2024

Approval of Consent Calendar:

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

Public Comment: None

Information or Discussion of Operations/Policy Issues:

Discussion – Commissioner Strategic Planning Sessions in 2024

GM Weidenfeller presented the proposed Strategic Planning Sessions for the Board of Commissioners in 2024. The Board agreed to the proposed dates, though these dates may change due to scheduling conflicts during the next year.

Discussion – Investment Plan for Consolidations

GM Weidenfeller presented information on the proposed investment plan for consolidations for Thurston PUD water systems within the next few years. The plan will be scheduled for approval as a resolution in 2024. Commissioner Olsen asked about the meeting with staff on this topic and impact to rates. GM Weidenfeller and AGM Parker addressed the Commissioner’s questions and discussed this topic at length with the Board. Commissioner Oosterman thanked staff for compiling this information, and she spoke about political instability currently occurring in the U.S. Commissioner Stearns also contributed to the discussion, speaking to consolidation, efficiencies available to the District, and the differences within and without Thurston County.

1st Reading – Resolution 24-01, Thurston PUD Hazard Mitigation Plan for Thurston County

GM Weidenfeller briefly introduced Resolution 24-01, previously discussed by DPC Gubbe. Commissioner Stearns spoke about natural disasters in the past and hazard mitigation.

Action/Approval Items:

Resolution 23-49, DWSRF Construction Contract, Pattison 500 Tri-Lake Booster Station Replacement
Commissioner Olsen made a motion to adopt Resolution 23-49 as presented: Commissioner Oosterman seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.

Resolution 23-55, Project Help Update

GM Weidenfeller briefly presented Resolution 23-55. **Commissioner Olsen made a motion to adopt Resolution 23-55 as presented: Commissioner Oosterman seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.**

Resolution 23-56, General Manager Salary 2024

Each Commissioners commented on their appreciation for GM Weidenfeller and his work at the District. **Commissioner Olsen made a motion to adopt Resolution 23-56 as presented; Commissioner Oosterman seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.**

2024 Commissioner Elections – President, Vice President, Secretary

Commissioner Olsen spoke about past precedent and asked Commissioner Oosterman about serving as president. **Commissioner Olsen made a motion to appoint Commissioner Oosterman as Board President for 2024: Commissioner Stearns seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor. Commissioner Oosterman made a motion to appoint Commissioner Olsen as Board Vice President for 2024: Commissioner Stearns seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor. Commissioner Oosterman made a motion to appoint Commissioner Stearns as Board Secretary for 2024: Commissioner Olsen seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.**

2024 Commissioner Assignments

The Board discussed assignments for Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) and Thurston County Emergency Management; Commissioner Oosterman asked that this topic be tabled until the first part of 2024. The Board agreed to reschedule this action item until a date to be determined in 2024. The Board also discussed voting for WPUDA and the Thurston County Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Signatures/Break: None

Presentations:

GM Weidenfeller reported on the status of the PFAS and consolidation grant applications recently submitted by District staff. Commissioner Stearns spoke about District 3, projected weather patterns, and the relation to the Green Cove Creek culvert replacement project; the Commissioner also asked about PFAS projects. GM Weidenfeller and AGM Parker addressed the Commissioner's question and the culvert replacement project. Commissioner Oosterman added information about projects in Olympia that may be affected by hydrogeology and projected weather patterns. The Board held a discussion at length on PFAS funding.

Commissioner Stearns also asked about Municipal Water Law and Washington State Department of Ecology Policy 2030; GM Weidenfeller gave an update on this topic and discussed this topic at length with the Commissioner.

Commissioner Stearns asked DFO Campbell about a no-water call for the Walczak 620 water system. Commissioners Stearns and Olsen discussed this topic briefly with District staff.

Commissioner Topics, Discussions, and Reports:

Commissioner Olsen will be out of state for the regular Commission meeting scheduled for January 23, 2024 and will try to attend the meeting virtually. Commissioner Oosterman did not have a report. Commissioner Stearns reported on the meetings he has recently attended, including TRPC and the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC).

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to adjourn: Commissioner Oosterman seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Assignments:

- 1) Advertise for the Board's Strategic Planning Sessions in 2024.
- 2) Reschedule action item on 2024 Commissioner Assignments to a future Commission meeting.
- 3) Provide an update to the Board on the Green Cove Creek culvert replacement project at a regular Commission meeting in January 2024.
- 4) Excuse Commissioner Olsen from the regular Commission meeting on January 23, 2024, if he is unable to attend the meeting virtually.

Christopher Stearns

[Christopher Stearns \(Jan 12, 2024 10:20 PST\)](#)

Chris Stearns, Commissioner and President

Attest:

Russell E Olsen

[Russell E Olsen \(Jan 10, 2024 06:22 PST\)](#)

Russell E. Olsen, Commissioner and Secretary











Minutes 12122023

Final Audit Report

2024-01-12

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