

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING OF JANUARY 9, 2024**  
**OF**  
**PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1**  
**OF**  
**THURSTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

The first regular Commission meeting for January 2024 of the Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County was called to order on January 9, 2024. The meeting commenced at 5:00 p.m. Commissioners Chris Stearns 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; Commissioner Oosterman was excused from the meeting. District staff and other personnel present at the meeting include:

- John Weidenfeller, General Manager
- Julie Parker, Assistant General Manager
- Kim Gubbe, Director of Planning and Compliance (DPC)
- Kurin Miller, Administrative Services Coordinator (ASC) and Clerk to the Board
- Kalelia Gipson, Customer Service Representative (CSR) and Associate Clerk to the Board
- Dave McKenzie, WPUDA Board President
- Debra Lester, WPUDA Board Secretary
- Liz Anderson, WPUDA Executive Director
- George Caan, WPUDA Special Projects Manager
- Stefany Zelepuza, WPUDA Senior Policy Specialist

**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 Olsen seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.**

**Consent Calendar:**

Approval of Minutes: December 12, 2023

Prequalification of Contractors: None

Correspondence: None

Voucher Approval:

- 1) Accounts Payables: December 19, 2023, December 27, 2023, January 3, 2024
- 2) Payroll: December 20, 2023, January 5, 2024

Other:

- 1) Resolution 24-02, Acceptance of Public Works Board Loan, Tanglewilde-Thompson Place 600 Water Main Distribution Replacement Project
- 2) Resolution 24-03, Authorization to Surplus
- 3) Reminder: WPUDA Association Meetings, January 10-12, 2024

**Approval of Consent Calendar:**

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

**Public Comment:** None

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

**Discussion – Visit with Thurston PUD Commissioners, WPUDA President Dave McKenzie and Staff**

WPUDA President Dave McKenzie and WPUDA Secretary Debra Lester made introductory statements to the PUD Board of Commissioners. Executive Director Liz Anderson then reintroduced herself, and she spoke on several topics, including her background, plans for 2024, and upcoming resources. Commissioner Stearns spoke about the District's relationship with Thurston County; the Commissioner asked about how WPUDA can help improve this relationship. Ms. Anderson addressed the Commissioner's question.

Senior Policy Specialist Stefany Zelepuza introduced herself and spoke about two issues: funding for fish passage projects and the 2015 *Foster* court decision. Ms. Zelepuza and Ms. Anderson further discussed these topics with the Board.

Commissioner Stearns asked about Washington State Department of Ecology Policy 2030, and Ms. Zelepuza gave an update on this topic. GM Weidenfeller added information regarding another resource made available by WPUDA. Commissioners Olsen and Stearns both addressed the WPUDA personnel present.

**At 5:44 p.m., Commissioner Olsen announced the Board would take a break for 10 minutes. At 5:54 p.m., the break ended, and the regular meeting resumed.**

**Discussion – Update on Green Cove Creek Culvert Replacement Project with Costs Incurred to Date**

AGM Parker gave a brief update on the Green Cove Creek culvert replacement project based on the information received from the project engineer. Commissioner Stearns spoke about his concerns regarding the District's portion of the project and rotating staff members at Thurston County; Commissioner Olsen spoke about following up on the budget proviso and WPUDA's report. The Commissioners discussed this topic at length with staff.

**Discussion – Investment Plan for Out of County Consolidations**

GM Weidenfeller reintroduced the investment plan for out of county consolidations. Commissioner Stearns spoke about water rights and Washington State Department of Ecology Policy 2030. Commissioner Olsen asked about Commissioner Oosterman's review of this topic and the subsequent resolution; GM Weidenfeller and AGM Parker addressed the Commissioner's question.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading – Resolution 24-04, Investment Plan for Out of County Consolidations**

This item was addressed in the previous discussion item (Investment Plan for Out of County Consolidations).

**Action/Approval Items:**

**Resolution 24-01, Thurston PUD Hazard Mitigation Plan for Thurston County**

DPC Gubbe briefly addressed Resolution 24-01. Commissioner Stearns asked about potable water trucks in Pierce County and considerations for rural Thurston County; he also spoke about sewage service with LOTT. GM Weidenfeller and DPC Gubbe addressed the Commissioner's question. **Commissioner Stearns**

**made a motion to adopt Resolution 24-01 with a minor typographical error correction; Commissioner Olsen seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.**

**Commissioner Signatures/Break:** None

**Presentations:**

District staff submitted written reports and did not have any additional information to report on during the meeting.

**Commissioner Topics, Discussions, and Reports:**

Commissioner Olsen did not have a report.

Commissioner Stearns spoke about his work with the Puget Sound Regional Council including his interaction with Kitsap County, bills introduced during the legislative session, ferries and fleet modernization, housing initiatives for minorities, and traffic fatalities.

**Executive Session:** None

**Adjournment: Commissioner Stearns made a motion to adjourn: Commissioner Olsen seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.**

**Assignments:**

- 1) To the Consent Calendar for the regular Commission meeting on January 23, 2024, add an item under "Other" to excuse Commissioner Oosterman from the regular Commission meeting on January 9, 2024.
- 2) AGM Parker will reach out to the project manager for the Green Cove Creek culvert replacement project to discuss future projects planned in Thurston County (e.g., the Tanglewilde-Thompson Place 600 water system mainline replacement project).

*Russell E Olsen*

Russell E Olsen (Feb 13, 2024 17:15 PST)

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Russell E. Olsen, Commissioner and Acting President

Attest:

*Christopher Stearns*

Christopher Stearns (Feb 28, 2024 14:58 PST)

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Christopher Stearns, Commissioner and Secretary











# Minutes 01092024

Final Audit Report

2024-02-28

Created:	2024-02-14
By:	Julie Parker (julieparker@thurstonpud.org)
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-  Signer rolsen@thurstonpud.org entered name at signing as Russell E Olsen  
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