

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

The first regular Commission meeting for April 2024 of the Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County was called to order on April 9, 2024. The meeting commenced at 5:01 p.m. Commissioners Linda Oosterman and Chris Stearns 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 Russell E. Olsen was excused from the meeting. District staff present at the meeting include:

- John Weidenfeller, General Manager
- Kim Gubbe, Director of Planning and Compliance (DPC)
- Jim Campbell, Director of Field Operations (DFO)
- TaSeana Tartt, Finance and Customer Service Manager (FCSM)
- Kurin Miller, Administrative Services Coordinator (ASC) and Clerk to the Board
- Kalelia Gipson, Customer Service Representative and Associate Clerk to the Board

Call to Order:

Commissioner Oosterman called the regular meeting to order at 5:01 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 present in favor.

Consent Calendar:

Approval of Minutes: March 26, 2024

Prequalification of Contractors: None

Correspondence: None

Voucher Approval:

- 1) Accounts Payables: March 27, 2024, April 3, 2024
- 2) Payroll: April 5, 2024

Other:

- 1) Reminder: WPUA Annual Conference – April 17-19, 2024
- 2) Excuse Commissioner Olsen from Regular Commission Meeting on April 9, 2024
- 3) Change Order 01, Pattison 500 Well Construction and Testing

Approval of Consent Calendar:

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

Public Comment: None

URAC Applicant:

Mr. Ron Weaver, a customer on the Deerfield Park 1 681 water system, recently applied for the Utility Rate Advisory Committee (URAC). Mr. Weaver spoke about his personal and professional background. The Commissioners engaged in a lengthy discussion with Mr. Weaver and GM Weidenfeller.

Commissioner Stearns made a motion to appoint Ron Weaver as a URAC member: Commissioner Oosterman seconded the motion; the motion passed with all present in favor.

Information or Discussion of Operations/Policy Issues:

Discussion – Thurston PUD Owned Kitsap County Water Systems

GM Weidenfeller addressed the Board regarding the District-owned water systems within Kitsap County and potential surplus of those systems. Commissioner Stearns added information on the logistics of those water systems. Commissioner Oosterman spoke against disposing of the District-owned systems in Kitsap County since Kitsap PUD is not interested in purchasing the systems. The Board discussed this topic with staff at length.

Discussion – Equal Payment Plan Recommendations

FCSM Tartt presented updated information on the District's Equal Payment Plan program and staff's recommendation to discontinue the program for customers later in the year. Commissioner Oosterman spoke to the burden on staff this program has presented. Commissioner Stearns asked about the participation levels for District customers. FCSM Tartt and GM Weidenfeller further discussed this topic with the Board.

1st Reading – Proclamation for Drinking Water Week, May 5-11, 2024

GM Weidenfeller presented the proposed proclamation for Drinking Water Week, scheduled for May 5, 2024, through May 11, 2024. The Board was invited to attend an employee appreciation breakfast in celebration of Drinking Water Week, scheduled on Thursday, May 9, 2024.

1st Reading – Resolution 24-13, Glen Alder 522 DWSRF Surcharge Amendment

GM Weidenfeller presented Resolution 24-13, which would adopt a reduced amount for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Surcharge for the Glen Alder 522 water system. A Public Hearing is scheduled at the next regular Commission meeting on April 23, 2024.

Action/Approval Items: None

Commissioner Signatures/Break: None

Presentations:

GM Weidenfeller gave updates on funding for the Green Cove Creek culvert replacement project, his contact with elected officials on this project, and an increase in funding for the PFAS remediation project for the Tanglewilde-Thompson Place 600 water system. Commissioner Oosterman spoke about the importance of building a positive relationship with the new County Manager for Thurston County. The Commissioner requested to attend any events that the new manager will attend if District staff cannot attend themselves.

DFO Campbell gave updates on recent work completed by Field Operations staff. FCSM spoke about an issue that caused a phone outage at the District.

DPC Gubbe gave a brief update on her work with the lead service line inventory due later this year. The DPC also gave updates on projects for several water systems, including the Pattison 500, Hawley Hills 686, and Meadows 690 water systems.

Commissioner Topics, Discussions, and Reports:

Commissioner Stearns spoke about the Deschutes River Dam and a forthcoming proposal to remove the dam. The Commissioner also reported on recent Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC), WPUA, and Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) meetings he recently attended.

Earlier in the meeting, Commissioner Oosterman spoke about the law that was recently passed prohibiting harassment of individuals running for office in Washington state. The Commissioner also spoke about an issue she experienced with the Health Care Authority regarding her personal information. Commissioner Oosterman recently spoke with the Lacey Police Chief, after he toured PUD Headquarters.

Commissioner Oosterman spoke with Mr. Weaver regarding illnesses (like pneumonia), infectious diseases (like COVID-19), vaccinations, and creating policies with these topics in mind. The Commissioner also gave an update on Senator Sam Hunt and his legislative seat.

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: Commissioner Stearns made a motion to adjourn: Commissioner Oosterman seconded the motion; the motion passed with all present in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Assignments:

- 1) Advertise accordingly for the employee appreciation breakfast on Thursday, May 9, 2024, in celebration of Drinking Water Week.
- 2) Schedule a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Casebolt well at the Pattison 500 water system. Advertise accordingly.

Linda Oosterman

Linda Oosterman (Apr 24, 2024 16:21 PDT)

Linda Oosterman, Commissioner and President

Attest:

Christopher Stearns

Christopher Stearns (Apr 25, 2024 14:17 PDT)

Christopher Stearns, Commissioner and Secretary









Minutes 04092024

Final Audit Report

2024-04-25

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By:	Julie Parker (julieparker@thurstonpud.org)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAZ5ms84jcPigsm-pMnPhw1mUpyl2XvVgA

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