

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING OF JANUARY 14, 2025**  
**OF**  
**PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1**  
**OF**  
**THURSTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

The first regular meeting for January 2025 of the Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County was called to order on January 14, 2025. The meeting commenced at 5:00 p.m. Commissioners Linda Oosterman, Russell E. Olsen, 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; District staff present at the meeting include:

- John Weidenfeller, General Manager (GM)
- Julie Parker, Assistant General Manager (AGM)
- Jim Campbell, Director of Field Operations (DFO)
- TaSeana Tartt, Finance Director (FD)
- Kalelia Gipson, Customer Service Representative and Associate Clerk to the Board
- Mariah Montague, Customer Service Supervisor

**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 amend the agenda, moving the Action/Approval Item(s) on the agenda before the Information or Discussion of Operations/Policy Issues: Commissioner Oosterman seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.**

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

**Consent Calendar:**

Approval of Minutes: December 10, 2024

Prequalification of Contractors:

- 1) Big Mountain Enterprises
- 2) Integrated Underwater Services

Correspondence: None

Voucher Approval:

- 1) Accounts Payables: December 11, 2024, December 17, 2024, December 24, 2024, January 8, 2025
- 2) Payroll: December 20, 2024, January 6, 2025

Other:

- 1) Emergency Waiver of Competitive Bidding Requirements, Lazy Acres
- 2) Reminder: WPUA Association Meetings, January 15-17, 2025
- 3) 2025 WPUA Meeting Schedule
- 4) Resolution 24-62, Construction Contract for Timberline 628 Mainline Installation

**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 in favor.**

**Public Comments:**

FD Tartt reported on two (2) comments received from Pierce County customers regarding rates. There were no questions from the Board.

**Action/Approval Items:**

**2025 Commissioner Elections**

The Board had a brief discussion before beginning 2025 Commissioner Elections. Commissioner Olsen spoke about past precedent and requested a resolution be brought to the next Commissioner Meeting that directs the Board of Commissioners to rotate the President position by Commissioner District annually with the rotation of District 3 Commissioner as President for 2025, District 2 Commissioner as President for 2026, and District 1 Commissioner as President for 2027 with this rotation continuing into the future. He asked that a resolution be brought forward to the next meeting to make this PUD Commission Policy.

The PUD Commissioners discussed decoupling the Commission President as the URAC Commission President. The Commissioner Olsen also requested a resolution be brought to the next Commissioner Meeting to amend the Utility Rate Advisory Committee (URAC) bylaws to remove the President of the Board of Commissioners serving as an ex officio, nonvoting member, of the Committee. The URAC Commission representative will be added to the list of Commissioner assignments. Commissioner Stearns and Commissioner Oosterman agreed with these requests. **Commissioner Olsen made a motion to appoint Commissioner Stearns as Board President for 2025: Commissioner Oosterman seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor. Commissioner Oosterman made a motion to appoint Commissioner Olsen as Board Vice President for 2025: Commissioner Stearns seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor. Commissioner Olsen made a motion to appoint Commissioner Oosterman as Board Secretary for 2025: Commissioner Stearns seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.**

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

**Discussion – Select New Date for the Board’s Strategic Planning Meeting (December 3, 2024 Meeting Cancelled)**

The Commissioners decided that the next Strategic Planning Meeting will be on February 4, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. The Board discussed goals for this meeting.

**Discussion – Commissioner Strategic Planning and/or Workshops in 2025**

The Commissioners discussed not planning or scheduling further Strategic Meetings or Workshops until after the Board’s February 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Planning Meeting to determine what future Strategic Planning meetings may be needed. It was decided to advertise the February 4, 2025, Strategic Planning meeting.

**Discussion – 2025 Commissioner Assignments**

The Board discussed assignments for the URAC and out-of-county customer concerns. The Board agreed the remainder of the assignments can stay assigned as they are. Commissioner Olsen will be the URAC non-voting Commissioner representative in 2025.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading – Resolution 25-01, Contract for Water Service, Olympia Ecosystems**

GM Weidenfeller reported on Resolution 25-01, which would authorize a contract for water service to Olympia Ecosystems, an environmental non-profit organization, for riparian restoration actions adjacent to the Deschutes River to improve water quality and quantity for the benefit of fish and other aquatic life. Commissioner Stearns and Commissioner Oosterman engaged in a short discussion with the GM regarding this work.

**Presentations:**

GM Weidenfeller reported on the recent URAC meeting and potential acquisitions. GM Weidenfeller also reported on injured Field Technicians and how the Field Operations Department is handling the short staffing. The District is currently recruiting for up to two (2) Field Technician temporary positions until staff returns to working at full capacity. Commissioner Stearns had questions regarding morale and coverage for overtime or on call assignments. DFO Campbell responded to the Commissioner's questions.

AGM Parker informed the Board of a recent Dispute Resolution Hearing she held with a Timberline 628 water system customer and that the dispute is now closed.

DFO Campbell reported on large mainline leaks staff has repaired recently. He also shared of the recent water tank cleaning that took place using new technology instead of a diver. Commissioner Stearns had a question regarding heavy rainfall and the temporary main installed over Green Cove Creek. DFO Campbell addressed his question.

In DPC Gubbe's absence, GM Weidenfeller encouraged the Board to review her report for updates in her department.

FD Tartt shared her written financial report, the Board had no questions.

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

Commissioner Olsen had nothing to report.

Commissioner Stearns reported on his recent meeting with the Water Resources Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Oosterman thanked staff for their work and support.

**At 6:02 p.m., Commissioner Olsen announced the Board would take a break for 5 minutes. At 6:07 p.m., the break ended, and the regular meeting resumed.**

**Executive Session: At 6:08 p.m., Commissioner Olsen announced that the Board would enter into an Executive Session in accordance with the provisions of RCW 42.30.110 (1)(b), to consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased price, and RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i), 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 for twenty minutes until 6:28 p.m. At 6:28 p.m., the Executive Session ended, and the regular meeting resumed. No decisions were made during the Executive Session.**

**Adjournment: Commissioner Stearns made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Oosterman seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.**

**Assignments:**

- 1) Bring forward a resolution be brought to the next Commissioner Meeting that directs the Board of Commissioners to rotate the President position by Commissioner District annually with the rotation of District 3 Commissioner as President for 2025, District 2 Commissioner as President for 2026, and District 1 Commissioner as President for 2027 with this rotation continuing into the future. He asked that a resolution be brought forward to the next meeting to make this PUD Commission Policy.
- 2) Bring forward a resolution to the next Commissioner Meeting to amend the Utility Rate Advisory Committee (URAC) bylaws to remove the President of the Board of Commissioners serving as an ex officio, nonvoting member, of the Committee.
- 3) Add the URAC Commission representative to the list of Commissioner assignments that is review.
- 4) Commissioner Olsen will be the URAC non-voting Commissioner representative in 2025.
- 5) The new date to replace the December 3, Strategic Planning meeting will be held on February 4, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. After that meeting, it will be decided when other strategic planning meetings are needed.
- 6) Advertise for the 2025 Strategic Planning meetings on February 4, 2025.

*Christopher Stearns*

Christopher Stearns (Jan 30, 2025 15:04 PST)

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Christopher Stearns, Commissioner and President

Attest:

*Linda Oosterman*

Linda Oosterman (Feb 4, 2025 14:43 PST)

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Linda Oosterman, Commissioner and Secretary









# Minutes 01142025

Final Audit Report

2025-02-04

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