

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING OF AUGUST 26, 2025
OF
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF
THURSTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

The second regular meeting for August 2025 of the Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County was called to order on August 26, 2025. The meeting commenced at 5:00 p.m. Commissioners 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)
- Kim Gubbe, Director of Planning and Compliance (DPC)
- Jim Campbell, Director of Field Operations (DFO)
- TaSeana Tartt, Finance Director (FD)
- Kurin Miller, Administrative Services Coordinator (ASC) and Clerk to the Board
- Kalelia Gipson, Customer Service Representative and Associate Clerk to the Board
- Joseph A. Rehberger, Chief Legal Counsel

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

Consent Calendar:

Approval of Minutes: August 5, 2025, August 12, 2025

Prequalification of Contractors: None

Correspondence: None

Voucher Approval:

- 1) Accounts Payables: August 13, 2025, August 20, 2025
- 2) Payroll: August 20, 2025

Other:

- 1) Amend Voucher Approval Forms for Regular Commission Meeting on July 8, 2025, and Rescind the Former Version of Voucher Approval Forms
- 2) Resolution 25-23, Policies and Procedures Update
- 3) Reminder: September 17-19, 2025 – WPUA Association Meetings (Moses Lake/Ephrata)
- 4) Reminder: September 24-26, 2025 – WPUA Water Workshop (Leavenworth)
- 5) Emergency Waiver of Competitive Bidding Requirements, August 21, 2025 – Pattison 500

Approval of Consent Calendar:

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

Public Comments:

There were several attendees present in person and one virtual attendee. Derek Pell, a District No. 1 Commissioner candidate, briefly introduced himself to the Board.

Discuss and Determine Interview Process for Special Commission Meeting on September 2, 2025

Commissioner Stearns spoke about several topics, including the Commissioner position, the election process, interactions with other local organizations, and his experience with the appointment process. Commissioner Olsen made suggestions for the interview process for the special Commission meeting scheduled on September 2, 2025. **Commissioner Olsen made a motion to move all six applications forward for the following candidates: Commissioner Stearns seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.**

- 1) James Campbell
- 2) James Cooper
- 3) Derek Pell
- 4) Tiffany Sevruck
- 5) Samantha Smithingell
- 6) Bruce Wilkinson, Jr.

Executive Session:

Although one was listed on the agenda, the Board declined to enter into an Executive Session during the regular Commission meeting.

Discussion of Candidates for District No. 1 Commissioner

This topic was covered earlier in the meeting.

Action/Approval Item(s):

Selection of One or More Candidates to Interview for Commissioner District No. 1 Position

This topic was covered earlier in the meeting.

Information or Discussion of Operations/Policy Issues:

Presentation – Preliminary 2026 Budget, Rates, Fees, Charges, Surcharges, and Ad Valorem Assessment

FD Tartt gave a presentation on preliminary information for the 2026 Proposed Budgets, Rates, Fees, Charges, Surcharges, and Ad Valorem Tax Levy. GM Weidenfeller added additional information to the presentation and addressed questions by Board members. Commissioner Olsen asked for a note or bullet to address the flexibility of the monies that may be collected via the proposed EPA/WA State Emerging Contaminant Remediation Surcharge; the Commissioner also commented on his concern on costs outpacing the District's ability to cover contamination costs in the future. Commissioner Stearns gave background information on the District on this topic. The presentation continued, and the Board discussed this information with District staff at length.

1st Reading – Resolution 25-24, 2026 Proposed Operating Budgets

FD Tartt presented Resolution 25-24 and highlighted the proposals addressed in the presentation earlier in the meeting.

1st Reading – Resolution 25-25, 2025 Proposed Capital Budget

FD Tartt presented Resolution 25-25. AGM Parker spoke about a change to the Capital Budget projections to better show cash flow predictions.

1st Reading – Resolution 25-26, 2026 Proposed Rates, Fees, Charges, and Surcharges

FD Tartt presented Resolution 25-26 and proposals made by District staff. FD Tartt addressed questions posed by both Commissioners.

1st Reading – Resolution 25-27, 2026 Proposed Ad Valorem Tax Levy

AGM Parker presented Resolution 25-27; she reminded the Board that this resolution will not be brought forward for action until November, because District staff is waiting on calculations from Thurston County before proceeding.

1st Reading – Resolution 25-28, DWSRF Lazy Acres 351, PFAS Treatment Construction Project

DPC Gubbe presented Resolution 25-28, adoption of which would award the construction contract for the PFAS treatment installation project at the Lazy Acres 351 water system. GM Weidenfeller briefly spoke about this topic with the Board.

Presentations:

GM Weidenfeller reported on several topics, including a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Green Cove Creek culvert replacement project, certificates of appreciation to present stemming from that project, and the Dana Passage water system, a potential water system acquisition in Thurston County.

AGM Parker reported on work done to come into compliance with EPA policies to access grant funds for District projects and recent efforts towards greater accessibility.

DPC Gubbe reported on the start of the mainline replacement project at the Tanglewilde-Thompson Place 600 water system.

Commissioner Stearns asked DFO Campbell to speak about the reservoir work at the Biscay Acres 675 water system. The DFO spoke about this project briefly.

Commissioner Topics, Discussions, and Reports:

Commissioner Olsen thanked staff for their work on the Commissioner District No. 1 position appointment process. The Commissioner asked about continuing District investments that were presented earlier this year; GM Weidenfeller and AGM Parker addressed the Commissioner's question. Commissioner Olsen will attend the next Utility Rate Advisory Committee (URAC) meeting on August 28, 2025.

Commissioner Stearns spoke about years with low and high levels of customer water consumption.

Adjournment: Commissioner Olsen made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Stearns seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Assignments:

- 1) Per Commissioner Olsen's request, define the EPA/WA State Emerging Contaminants Remediation amount of \$13,992 (slide 12) as operations and maintenance costs, not remediation costs.

- 2) Per Commissioner Olsen's request, create a graph for members of the public that shows the known cost of operations and maintenance costs, the rate of cost recovery for remediation, and when the monies we are collecting are expected to be needed.
- 3) Per Commissioner Olsen's request, pose a question to WPUDA and/or organization members:
Are any other organizations experiencing the same issues as the District regarding PFAS remediation and current/future costs?

Christopher Stearns

Christopher Stearns (Sep 24, 2025 15:11:14 PDT)

Christopher Stearns, Commissioner and President

Attest:

Russell E. Olsen

Russell E. Olsen (Sep 9, 2025 19:25:19 PDT)

Russell E. Olsen, Commissioner and Vice President









Minutes 08262025

Final Audit Report

2025-09-24

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