

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING OF JULY 7, 2026
OF
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF
THURSTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

The first regular meeting for July 2026 of the Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County was called to order on July 7, 2026. The meeting commenced at 5:00 p.m. Commissioners Jim Campbell, 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)
- TaSeana Tartt, Finance Director (FD)
- David Gruver, 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 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 amended: Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.

Consent Calendar:

Approval of Minutes: June 23, 2026
Prequalification of Contractors: None
Correspondence: None
Voucher Approval:

- 1) Accounts Payables: June 24, 2026, July 1, 2026
- 2) Payroll: July 6, 2026

Other:

- 1) Reminder: July WPUDA Association Meetings (Okanogan), July 15-17, 2026
- 2) Reminder: WPUDA Quarterly Water Committee Meeting (Olympia/Zoom), July 24, 2026, 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.
- 3) Resolution 26-34, Authorization to Apply for PWAA Loan

Approval of Consent Calendar:

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

Public Comments:

One member of the public was present virtually via Zoom, but they did not provide public comment.

Information or Discussion of Operations/Policy Issues:

Discussion – 2027 Budget Priorities

GM Weidenfeller presented the 2027 Budget priorities. Commissioner Campbell provided a recommendation to implement a 1.9 percent rate increase for the 2027 Budget and to reevaluate later in the year when additional fiscal information becomes available; the Commissioner discussed his reason for the recommendation, and he asked for support from the other members of the Board. Commissioner Stearns asked about consumption amounts to date; District staff provided information on consumption up through May, but they did not have enough information to provide for June and July. Commissioner Olsen was supportive of Commissioner Campbell's recommendation, but he asked for a specific revisit date to maintain consistency in the budget process for the Board. Commissioner Olsen asked to revisit options and impacts in February or March, and he asked for staff to delineate what items will or will not be funded in the budget. District staff will review and schedule a discussion item at a future Commission meeting. FD Tartt provided a summary on comparisons of the District's consumption tiers and rates to neighboring utilities.

Action/Approval Item(s): None

Presentations:

GM Weidenfeller reported on several potential water system acquisitions including the Shadow Creek and Lovely Lane water systems. The Board further discussed these acquisitions with GM Weidenfeller. GM Weidenfeller also reported on correspondence with a customer regarding PFAS at the Cooperfield 678 water system. He also reported on a customer that will receive a refund for a repair performed on a leak on the District's side of the meter. Finally, the GM reported on Municipal Water Law information and meetings scheduled for the new Washington's Water Future initiative. The Board discussed this topic at length with GM Weidenfeller.

AGM Parker provided updates on letters sent to customers with higher historic levels of consumption. The AGM reported on a current opening for a temporary Accounts Payable and/or Payroll position.

DFO Gruver reported on several items, including leak repair at the Dana Passage 523 water system, new mainline valves at the Hawk Acres 607 water system, and new radio read meters installed.

DPC Gubbe provided updates on the Tanglewilde-Thompson Place 600 mainline replacement project and finalization of the Pattison 500 project.

Commissioner Topics, Discussions, and Reports:

Commissioner Campbell reported on personal time recently taken. The Commissioner will attend the upcoming Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) meeting.

Commissioner Olsen will attend the upcoming Utility Rate Advisory Committee (URAC) meeting on July 10, 2026. The Commissioner spoke about emails he has received in support of public power, which may have also been sent to the other Commissioners.

Commissioner Stearns will attend the upcoming Association meetings for WPUA in Okanogan.

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: Commissioner Campbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Stearns seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Assignments:

- 1) If the Commissioners approve a 1.9% budget revenue rate increase for 2027, review the finances of the District in February or March 2027 and if needed, recommend any additional budget or rate adjustments if they are needed.
- 2) For the proposed 1.9% revenue rate increase for the budget, provide the PUD Commissioners information on which budget items are and are not funded in the 2027 Budget.

Russell E. Olsen
Russell E. Olsen (Jul 29, 2026 12:51:06 PDT)

Russell E. Olsen, Commissioner and President

Attest:

Christopher Stearns
Christopher Stearns (Jul 29, 2026 16:01:30 PDT)

Christopher Stearns, Commissioner and Secretary

Minutes 07072026

Final Audit Report

2026-07-29

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