

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 23, 2021
OF
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF
THURSTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

The second regular meeting for March 2021 of the Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County was called to order on March 23, 2021, commencing at 5:00 p.m. Commissioners Russell E. Olsen, Linda Oosterman and Chris Stearns were present for the teleconference meeting hosted via Zoom. The following District employees were also present for the meeting:

- 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 and Customer Service Manager (FCSM)
- Ruth Clemens, Administrative Services Manager (ASM)
- Kurin Miller, 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 presented: Commissioner Oosterman seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.

Consent Calendar:

Approval of Minutes: March 9, 2021

Prequalification of Contractors: None

SMA Contracts: None

Correspondence: None

Voucher Approval:

- 1) Accounts Payables: March 10, 2021, March 17, 2021
- 2) Payroll: March 19, 2021

Other:

- 1) Resolution 21-14, Recommendation of WPUDA Nomination of Julie Parker to Public Works Board
- 2) Resolution 21-15, Consulting Agreement with Jim Casebolt
- 3) WPUDA March 2021 Commissioner Orientation Agenda
- 4) WPUDA March Virtual Meetings Grid
- 5) WPUDA Water Committee Meeting Agenda – March 25, 2021

Approval of Consent Calendar:

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

Public Comment: None

Information or Discussion of Operations/Policy Issues:

Recurring Discussion – COVID-19 Updates

ASM Clemens reported on the current vaccination phase in Washington State. She spoke about the recent Governor’s proclamation to extend the utility disconnection moratorium until later in the year. Commissioner Olsen asked about the change in the vaccination status regarding essential workers and contact with the public. ASM Clemens, Commissioner Oosterman, and Commissioner Olsen discussed this topic further.

Recurring Discussion – Telecommunications

ASM Clemens reported on a recent meeting she attended with NoaNet; survey options and grant writing were discussed at that meeting.

First Reading – Resolution 21-09, 2021 Conservation Measures

DPC Gubbe presented Resolution 21-09 which would adopt the proposed conservation measures for 2021. Staff is proposing a limited amount of irrigation controller rebates and garden timers. Commissioner Stearns asked the DPC about the popularity of conservation programs amongst customers in the past; DPC Gubbe addressed the Commissioner’s question.

First Reading – Resolution 21-10, Timberline Village Construction Contract

DPC Gubbe presented Resolution 21-10 which would give the GM authority to award a construction contract for the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan (DWSRF) project at the Timberline Village water system.

First Reading – Resolution 21-11, Resort of the Mountain Construction Contract

DPC Gubbe presented Resolution 21-11 which would give the GM authority to award a construction contract for the DWSRF project at the ROM water system. Commissioner Stearns asked about the difficulty in finding the service lines at this system. Commissioner Oosterman asked about the artesian well at the site. DFO Campbell and DPC Gubbe addressed the Commissioners’ questions.

First Reading – Resolution 21-13, Water System Transfer Agreement

GM Weidenfeller presented Resolution 21-13 which would give the GM authority to enter into a contractual purchase and sale agreement to purchase the Coppermill water system in Thurston County. Commissioner Stearns asked about the intertie connection between this system and other PUD-owned water systems; he also asked about the system’s water rights and any additional storage or expansion that may be required. Commissioner Oosterman also asked about the system’s water rights in regard to the water right permit status. GM Weidenfeller addressed the Commissioners’ questions.

First Reading – Resolution 21-16, 2021 Rates for New Water System

GM Weidenfeller presented Resolution 21-16 which would adopt water rates, fees, charges, and surcharges for the Coppermill water system effective May 1, 2021.

Action/Approval Item(s): None

Commissioner Signatures/Break:

There were no physical documents to sign.

Presentations:

GM Weidenfeller reported on the scheduled meeting for the Utility Rate Advisory Committee (URAC) group in April; the GM asked Commissioner Olsen about scheduling an introduction of a URAC applicant at the Regular Commission Meeting scheduled on April 13, 2021. Commissioner Olsen spoke about a scheduling conflict for the April URAC meeting; Commissioner Oosterman will attend this meeting in his place. The GM also reported on the status of several water system acquisitions. Commissioner Stearns asked about Department of Ecology Policy 1050 regarding water rights and if a speedy resolution is possible; the GM addressed the Commissioner's question.

AGM Parker presented a newly discovered feature on the Commission Meeting agenda packets. FCSM Tartt briefly presented on the February monthly variance report.

DFO Campbell gave an update on solar projects. Commissioner Stearns asked about clearing trees at the Meadows water system solar site; DFO Campbell addressed the Commissioner's question.

Commissioner Topics, Discussions and Reports:

Commissioner Olsen spoke about upcoming Commission Meetings; staff confirmed that there is no meeting scheduled on Tuesday, March 30. The Commissioner also reported on conversations he had with GM Weidenfeller regarding the redistricting issue brought forth at the meeting on March 16, 2021. Commissioner Oosterman asked about redistricting; the Board discussed this topic further. Commissioner Olsen also spoke with the GM about applying for grants.

Commissioner Oosterman will not attend the Regular Commission Meeting on April 27, 2021 due to personal reasons. The Commissioner spoke about available Department of Homeland Security grants, and she asked about staff attending meetings on these grant proposals. The Board discussed a letter received from a Pattison water system customer. Commissioner Oosterman also asked for a customer count, and the GM provided current information on this topic.

Commissioner Stearns reported on the WPUDA meetings. He asked Commissioner Oosterman to provide a synopsis of the luncheon presentation during the WPUDA meetings, since he was not able to attend this presentation. Commissioner Oosterman spoke about the presentation, and Commissioner Stearns continued his report on the meetings he has recently attended. The Board discussed a projected shortage on water resources for the City of Lacey.

An Executive Session was listed on the agenda, but Commissioner Olsen declined to initiate the Executive Session based on staff information. The Board voted to adjourn the meeting.

Adjournment: Commissioner Oosterman made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Stearns seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Assignments:

- 1) Correct the name under Secretary on Resolution 21-09.
- 2) Present a demonstration to the Board of Commissioners at the Special Commission Meeting scheduled for April 20, 2021 regarding the COS Systems telecommunications survey.
- 3) Schedule an introduction of the new URAC applicant at the Regular Commission Meeting on April 13, 2021.

- 4) Update Resolutions 21-13 and 21-16 so that Commissioner Stearns will be able to sign in lieu of Commissioner Oosterman. Indicate "Acting Secretary" instead of "Vice President" for Commissioner Stearns.

Russell E. Olsen

[Russell E. Olsen \(Apr 19, 2021 07:20 PDT\)](#)

Russell E. Olsen, Commissioner and President

Attest:

Linda Oosterman

[Linda Oosterman \(Apr 20, 2021 12:58 PDT\)](#)

Linda Oosterman, Commissioner and Secretary









Minutes 03.23.2021

Final Audit Report

2021-04-20

Created:	2021-04-14
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