

Minutes of
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY
September 29, 2020
BOX CANYON DAM, IONE AND TELECONFERENCE

Present: Curtis J. Knapp, President
Richard A. Larson, Vice President
Joseph B. Onley, Secretary

Staff Present: F. Colin Willenbrock, General Manager
Management/District Staff
Tyler Whitney, General Counsel & Assistant General Manager
Karen Willner, Clerk of the Board

Others: Gretchen Koenig, Member of the Public
Sheryl Miller, Member of the Public
Sonya Scauftaire, Member of the Public

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Curtis J. Knapp, President.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The minutes from the September 15, 2020 meeting and today's agenda were reviewed.

Vouchers audited certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing, which has been made available to the Board. As of this date, September 29, 2020, the Board, upon motion by Commissioner Larson and seconded by Commissioner Onley approved the following:

- The minutes of September 15, 2020 meeting and the agenda for September 29, 2020.
- Payment of those vouchers, included in the list referred to above and further described as follows: Voucher Nos. 4855 through 4895 in the total amount of \$136,404.90; ACH payments in the total amount of \$1,116,523.56; Wire Transfers in the total amount of \$445,906.69; and ACH payroll transactions in the total amount of \$277,686.37 for the payroll ending September 15, 2020.

A roll call was taken.

PRE-APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONER TRAVEL:

Discussion was held regarding the commissioner's October 2020 travel plans.

Commissioner Knapp will attend a Washington Public Utility Districts Association (WPUDA) Water Workshop on October 1 or 2, PUD Board meetings on October 6 and 20, Employees Safety Day on October 15, Energy Northwest meetings on October 21 – 22, WPUDA meetings on October 23 and an Annual Legislative meeting on October 27. All the meetings will be held virtually.

Commissioner Larson will attend the PUD Board meetings on October 6 and 20, a Northwest Open Access Network Board meeting on October 14, Employees Safety Day on October 15, an Economic Development Council meeting on October 21, an Annual Legislative meeting on October 27 and a Tri-County Economic Development District meeting on October 28. All the meetings will be held virtually.

Commissioner Onley will attend the PUD Board meetings on October 6 and 20, Employees Safety Day on October 15 and an Annual Legislative meeting on October 27. All of the meetings will be held virtually.

ACTION ITEM:

- A motion was made by Commissioner Larson and seconded by Commissioner Onley to approve the Commissioner travel for October. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD WORKSHOP:

Colin Willenbrock, District General Manager noted how exciting it is to hold the meeting in person at Box Canyon and to tour the upstream fish ladder project.

He provided a COVID-19 update and reported at last check, there were 63 confirmed cases in Pend Oreille County with 6 new cases in the last few days. The Newport School District can begin to open with grades K - 6 starting on Monday. The Cusick and Selkirk School Districts continue to operate partially in-person. He reported symptom check in stations continue and we are supporting the community as much as we can. There are still groups of students and employees working from home. We have increased our wireless hotspots to 10 and he provided the locations which are also listed on our website.

He reported our efforts continue with our strategic marketing plan. With the closing of the Ponderay Newsprint Company (PNC) we are long in our resale surplus power. We are working with Portland General Electric and per our August financials market prices continue to fluctuate and be volatile with lows \$7 per MW and highs \$180 per MW. He explained the hydro and solar power resources. He reported the PNC site bankruptcy process is proceeding and the trustee should soon be posting bidding information for the site.

Gretchen Koenig, member of the public inquired if the public can know about the bidding process or if it's limited to the stakeholders. Mr. Willenbrock explained the bid process and reported it is up to the trustee on how to manage.

Commissioner Larson referenced the Shell and whether the District will have to renegotiate the Bonneville Power Administration contracts in 2028. Mr. Willenbrock reported that the District currently has zero net requirements for power from BPA and the federal system.

Ms. Koenig inquired how the Boundary costs work. Mr. Willenbrock reported it is a cost-based product and in the last two years those costs have increased by double digits. Discussion was held.

ACTION ITEM:

- Resolution No. 1436 Amended – COVID-19 Emergency Customer Assistance Program. Tyler Whitney, District General Counsel & Assistant General Manager reviewed the revisions and reported the Rural Resources agreement is expiring. Sarah Holderman, District Director, Treasury, Broadband & Strategic Planning performed an analysis of the cost savings of bringing the program back in house. Per the Governor's proclamation assistance is also available to water customers. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Commissioner Larson and seconded by Commissioner Onley to adopt the amended resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSION REPORT:

Commissioner Onley attended a WPUA Commissioner Education & Roundtable meeting on September 16; WPUA Telecom, Energy, Government Relations and Communications Committee and Water Roundtable meetings on September 17 and a Board of Directors meeting on September 18. He provided an overview of the virtual meetings.

Commissioner Larson attended the virtual WPUA Energy Committee meeting on September 17 and a virtual Economic Development Council meeting on September 16 where discussion was held on cleaning up their bylaws and the Ady load growth study.

Commissioner Knapp attended the virtual WPUA meetings on September 17 and had conversations with a few customers regarding an Usk property and fiber extension. He attended a virtual Energy Northwest meeting on September 23 and provided an overview. He inquired if Mr. Willenbrock had received information on the Public Power Council (PPC) Executive Committee election policy and change to their bylaws. Mr. Willenbrock reported commissioners can be elected to the PPC Executive Committee for a 2-year term and he provided an overview of who can vote. He will bring the PPC Executive Committee vote before the Board for its consideration. Discussion was held.

COMMISSION BUSINESS:

There was no commission business.

Discussion was held regarding the virtual Employee Safety Day agenda.

Commissioner Larson inquired if a contractor was doing a pole test and treat at Sullivan Lake. David Hodder, District Engineering Manager reported there are pole test and treat crews working in the north part of the county.

Mr. Whitney provided safety protocol information for today's fish ladder tour. He reported if he loses cell phone service the public tour will end and if necessary the commissioners will individually continue the tour with separate District staff members and the meeting will be adjourned.

TOUR OF UPSTREAM FISH LADDER:

With safety protocols in place, the Board, District staff and two members of the public toured the Box Canyon Dam Upstream Fish Ladder project. Cell service was lost once on the spillway of the dam, the commissioners were separated and the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. with no further action or discussion coming before the board.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary

General Counsel
Approved as to Form