

Minutes of  
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY  
April 21, 2026  
NEWPORT CONFERENCE ROOM, NEWPORT, WA AND  
VIRTUAL VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Present: Curtis J. Knapp, President  
Dave Rick, Vice President  
J. Troy Moody, Secretary

Staff Present: Chris Jones, General Manager  
Management/District Staff  
Karen Willner, Clerk of the Board

Others: Tyler Whitney, Cable Huston, LLP, virtual  
Gretchen Koenig, Member of the Public  
Ernie Hood, Member of the Public

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Commissioner Curtis J. Knapp, President followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The minutes from the April 7, 2026 meeting, today's revised agenda, and the vouchers were reviewed and discussed.

As of this date, April 21, 2026, the Board, upon motion by Commissioner Rick and seconded by Commissioner Moody approved the following:

- The revised agenda for April 21, 2026, and the minutes of the April 7, 2026 meeting.
- 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. Payment of those vouchers, included in the list referred to above and further described as follows: Voucher Nos. 11559 through 11607 in the total amount of \$133,298.52; ACH payments in the total amount of \$1,773,289.18; Wire transfers in the total amount of \$292,792.08; and ACH payroll transactions in the total amount of \$336,154.68 for the payroll ending March 31, 2026.

The motion passed unanimously.

The Board recognized and provided Karen Willner, Clerk of the Board, with flowers and a card in appreciation of Administrative Professionals Day tomorrow.

#### COMMISSION REPORT:

Commissioner Moody attended a Pend Oreille County Historical Society meeting on April 15 in Newport and provided an overview.

Commissioner Knapp attended a virtual E3 Resource Adequacy Webinar on April 15 and provided an overview. He had separate breakfast meetings with Ernie Hood and David Bradbury.

#### COMMISSION BUSINESS:

Commissioner Rick will attend a Tri-County Economic Development District meeting on April 22 in Colville and a Washington Public Utility Districts Association (WPUA) Annual Conference on April 28 – May 1 in Suquamish.

Commissioner Moody will attend the WPUA Annual Conference on April 28 – May 1 in Suquamish.

Commissioner Knapp will attend Energy Northwest meetings today through Thursday in Tri-Cities and the WPUA Annual Conference on April 29 – May 1 in Suquamish.

- Pre-Approval of Commissioner Travel or Meeting Attendance. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Commissioner Moody and seconded by Commissioner Rick to approve the Commissioner Travel or Meeting Attendance for May. The motion passed unanimously.

#### GENERAL MANAGER REPORT:

Chris Jones, District General Manager, reported that Cooperative Building Solutions is here today and tomorrow to do a feasibility study on our facilities. He provided an overview. Discussion was held.

He reported labor negotiations are going well, and they are working through letter agreements. He provided an overview.

He reported Merkle Standard Infrastructure, LLC had applied for a feasibility study with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) which was finished a few months ago, and Merkle has requested that BPA move ahead with a coordinated system impact study. The feasibility study showed work needs to be done on both the BPA's system and District's system and the process will not incur any cost to our general service customers and Merkle is on a pre-pay basis. Merkle is ready to pay for the next study, and we will work with them. Discussion was held.

### BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC/OPEN COMMENT PERIOD:

Commissioner Knapp provided the guidelines for the session and asked if there were any business or comments from the public.

Ernie Hood, member of the public, provided public comment. Mr. Jones responded and discussion was held.

Gretchen Koenig, member of the public, provided public comment. Ben Hall, District Energy Resources Manager, provided an overview. Discussion was held.

Commissioner Knapp thanked everyone for attending and for their comments.

Following a short recess, the meeting resumed.

### MANAGEMENT REPORT:

#### Bryant Kramer, Director of Power Production:

He provided a Pend Oreille River Update presentation and reported we are at 77% of the median snowpack compared to the last 20 years. He showed an Albeni Falls Dam discharge forecast graph that indicates water discharge may increase to 60,000 cfs in the next few weeks. He reported that we are expecting a high water peak in the next week or so and we are currently in our spring runoff and are expecting another peak at the end of May. Discussion was held.

#### Scott Jungblom, Natural Resources Manager:

He attended a Pend Oreille Basin Invasive Freshwater Exotic Mussel Prevention Summit and provided a presentation regarding the impact, prevention, and preparation. Discussion was held.

#### Joe Hathaway, Public Information Officer:

He reported the District will hold an educational event on May 14 at 5:30 p.m. at Newport High School. Topics will include elevated fire safe mode, wildfire mitigation, and power supply. More information will be provided.

#### Sarah Holderman, Director of Customer Services:

She provided a BEAD Grant funding update. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration provided the official Notice of Award to the Washington State Broadband Office (WSBO). Once this agreement is signed, WSBO will provide grant recipients the award letter and contract agreements. Grantee recipients have up to 180 days from April 15, 2026 to sign the contracts.

Amber Gifford, Conservation and Grants Manager:

She navigated to our Residential Rebates and Incentives link on our website and provided a summary of our energy efficiency programs that include insulation, windows and doors, ductless heat pumps, heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, energy star appliances, and smart thermostats. Discussion was held.

She is working with commercial and industrial customers on energy conservation projects.

She reported we are launching a Helping Out Pend Oreille with Efficiency (HOPE) Program in May. This is an income-qualified weatherization initiative to assist customers who need support.

April Owen, District Director of Finance, commended Ms. Gifford for getting these programs set up and reported these programs are a win-win for us and our customers. Discussion was held.

Katie Pfitzer, Director of Administrative Services:

She reported that since January our region has experienced safety incidents including one death, four hospitalizations, and one AED. There have been 87 days with six devastating incidents. None of the incidents happened at the District. She thanked the Board for their investment in safety and stressed the importance of everyone going home safe every day. The District has had 461 days without any safety incidents.

Ben Hall, Energy Resources Manager:

He provided a market update presentation that included market planning reports – BPA Resource Energy Data Book and E3 Report, and greater northwest installed capacity, reliability contribution by resource type, and greenhouse gas emissions reduction. Discussion was held.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION OWNER'S DAM SAFETY PROGRAM (ODSP):

Mr. Kramer provided an Annual ODSP Review presentation and reported this is a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission mandated review of our dam safety program.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Approval of Resolution No. 1506 – 2026 Water System Rate Adjustments and Revised Water Service, Rates, and Credit Policy. Ms. Holderman reported the proposed water rate adjustments are the same as presented at the annual water system meetings and public rate hearing and the rates will be effective May 1. A

motion was made by Commissioner Rick and seconded by Commissioner Moody to adopt the resolution and approve the revised policy. The motion passed unanimously.

- Approval of Procurement of Excavator, Contract No. 26-315. Mr. Jones reported this is a budgeted item for the tree trimming crew. A motion was made by Commissioner Moody and seconded by Commissioner Rick to approve and authorize the general manager to execute the contract. The motion passed unanimously.
- Approval of Declaration of Surplus Property – Fleet Assets #050 a 1990 Trail King TK24 Equipment Trailer, #106 a 2016 Ford F-550 Altec AT40-G Bucket Truck, #160 a 2010 Ford F-150 Pickup Truck, #231 a 2005 Altec AT47 Bucket Truck, and #242 a 2013 Kubota KX121-3 Mini Excavator. The fleet assets are being sold due to age, condition, and mileage and/or hours. Mr. Jones referenced an email from Brett Shults, District Fleet Foreman/Lead Mechanic and reported three assets will be sold at auction and two assets will be sold through our sealed bid process. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Commissioner Moody and seconded by Commissioner Rick to declare the fleet assets as being unserviceable, inadequate, obsolete, worn out, or unfit to be used in the District's operations, and no longer necessary, material to, or useful in the operations of the District and, therefore, surplus to the needs of the District. The motion passed unanimously. Staff will proceed as appropriate.
- Approval of Bid Award for Aerial Saw Line Clearing, Contract No. 26-201. Mr. Jones reported this is a budgeted item and is for transmission line side trimming along the railroad and along the Box Canyon and Boundary taps. Mike Schleich, District Director of Engineering and Operations, provided a presentation. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Commissioner Rick and seconded by Commissioner Moody to award the bid to the only bidder, Heli-Dunn, in the total amount of \$1,050,667.35. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Knapp announced that following a short recess, a 30-minute executive session for pending and/or potential litigation will begin at 11:30 a.m. and end at 12:00 p.m. in the Riverbend Conference Room. If the executive session needs to be extended he will rejoin the open session to publicly announce an extension. No final action will be taken during the executive session. Following the executive session, he and the Board will rejoin the open session to resume or adjourn the meeting.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION – PENDING AND/OR POTENTIAL LITIGATION:

A 30-minute executive session for pending and/or potential litigation commenced at 11:30 a.m. The following were in attendance: Board of Commissioners; Chris Jones, General Manager; Sarah Holderman, Director of Customer Services; and Tyler Whitney, Cable Huston, LLP, virtual. The executive session ended at 12:01 p.m. and the Board returned to open session. No final action was taken during the executive session.

Ms. Willner reported the next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5, 2026, starting at 8:30 a.m., in the Newport Conference Room, in Newport, Washington and via Microsoft Teams.

Commissioner Knapp adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

---

President

ATTEST:

---

Secretary

---

General Counsel  
Approved as to Form