

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

Present: Curtis J. Knapp, President
David W. Rick, Vice President, virtual
J. Troy Moody, Secretary

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

Others: Ernie Hood, Member of the Public
David Bradbury, Member of the Public
Tracy Rutt, Member of the Public
Laura Verity, Merkle Standard Infrastructure
Kristen Yake, My Sidewalk Café

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 July 7, 2026 meeting, today's agenda, and the vouchers were reviewed and discussed.

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

- The agenda for July 21, 2026, and the minutes of the July 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. 11842 through 11889 in the total amount of \$ 116,000.22; ACH payments in the total amount of \$1,747,873.41; Wire transfers in the total amount of \$347,919.65; and ACH payroll transactions in the total amount of \$423,173.63 for the payroll ending June 30 , 2026.

The motion passed unanimously.

Katie Pfitzer, District Director of Administrative Services, introduced Justin Chantry, District Journeyman Lineman. Mr. Chantry provided his background. The Board welcomed Mr. Chantry to the District.

COMMISSION REPORT:

Commissioner Moody attended the Washington Public Utility Districts Association (WPUDA) meetings on July 14 - 17 in Okanogan and provided an overview. Discussion was held. He noted the passing of Skamania PUD Commissioner Liz Green.

Commissioner Knapp attended a virtual Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee (PNUCC) meeting on July 10 and reported that he may virtually attend the Public Power Council, PNUCC, and River Partners meetings in August. He attended the WPUDA meetings on July 14-17 in Okanogan.

Commissioner Rick attended a Town of Metaline Town Council meeting on July 15 in Metaline and provided an overview. He reported that Mayor Pete Daggett resigned and the Town is struggling financially and looking for grants.

COMMISSION BUSINESS:

Commissioner Moody will attend a Pend Oreille County Historical Society tomorrow in Newport, a virtual Northwest Open Access Network meeting on July 23, virtual WPUDA Water Committee and Washington Water Utility Council meetings on July 24, and a Greater Newport Area Chamber of Commerce meeting on July 28 in Newport.

Commissioner Rick will attend a District 7 Representatives Community Information meeting on July 30 at the Cutter Theatre in Metaline Falls.

Commissioner Knapp will attend Energy Northwest meetings later today through Thursday in Tri-Cities and the virtual WPUDA Water Committee meeting.

- Pre-approval of Commission Travel or Meeting Attendance. A motion was made by Commissioner Knapp and seconded by Commissioner Moody to approve the commission travel or meeting attendance for August. The motion passed unanimously.

GENERAL MANAGER REPORT:

Chris Jones, District General Manager, attended a virtual WPUDA General Manager meeting on July 15 and provided an overview regarding electrical line worker job duties definition and Labor and Industry rules. He reported that according to a new interpretation of the law by L&I an apprentice is not considered a qualified electrical work employee. With this, hot apprentices can't do work by themselves and need to have a journeyman lineman with them.

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.

Kristen Yake, My Sidewalk Café Owner, provided public comment.

Tracy Rutt, Member of the Public, provided public comment.

Ernie Hood, Member of the Public, provided public comment.

Commissioner Knapp thanked the public for attending and for their comments.

Following a short recess, the meeting resumed.

MANAGEMENT REPORT:

Mr. Jones continued with the qualified electrical work employee job duties regarding a Labor and Industry rule change. Discussion was held.

He reported that the Aquatic Weeds Workshop on July 10 at the Camas Center was a success and they had a good turnout.

He reported that we will have a booth at the Down River Days event on July 25 and 26. We will have a booth at the Community Night Out event on August 4 in Newport.

Katie Pfitzer, Director of Administrative Services:

She reported that we will be doing a water rescue drill on July 28 at Box Canyon Dam with LifeFlight and Fire District #2. We will have a LifeFlight rescue drill on August 11 at the Newport Administration Building during the safety meeting and South Pend Oreille Fire & Rescue will also be here.

She reported a Customer Service Representative job position was posted and we received 42 job applications.

She reported that the last summer student started yesterday and we have 15 students this summer.

Discussion was held on employee injuries.

Ben Hall, Energy Resources Manager:

He provided a Clean Energy Implementation Plan performance report review.

He provided Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) updates and reported that Travis Kavulla was sworn in as the 17th BPA Administrator, the transmission reform process is continuing, and the final stages of the Provider of Choice contracts are being put into place over the next year.

He will have a Balancing Services Agreement Extension action item for the Board's consideration at the August 4 meeting.

Shannon Johnston, Customer Service Supervisor:

She reported the Customer Service department has implemented a new Immediate Service Restore Program so that when a customer is disconnected for non-pay they will be automatically reconnected if they meet three requirements: pay the reconnect fee, pay the past due balance, and confirm it is safe to re-energize the property. Discussion was held.

Sarah Holderman, Director of Customer Services:

She reported that we sent letters and notifications to the Town of Metaline Falls customers who are in the city limits regarding a utility tax on their PUD electric and water bill. Discussion was held.

She provided a Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) update and reported we applied for five project area awards and received grant awards for three areas totaling \$12.4 million in BEAD funding and \$4.1 million in state funding. She reviewed the south county project areas and reported that our contract is in review, we are working with Washington Federal Bank on a letter of credit, we have until the middle of October to sign the contract, and we will have an action item for the Board to approve the contract and letter of credit in August. Discussion was held.

She provided a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding update and reported that we had a December 2025 storm with over 4,700 customers out of power. We will receive 87.5% in FEMA funding of the total cost of \$175,000. Discussion was held.

She reported that during our meter replacement project we found there were several enclosed meters inside customer living spaces that we couldn't access. We are working on a program to help customers move these meters outside of their homes.

Angie Hall, Regulatory Compliance Manager:

She provided an overview of data center load growth and addressed the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC) emphasis on developing effective monitoring strategies for these sites. The goal is to ensure that grid reliability, safety, and long-term system planning remain uncompromised. Discussion was held.

John Bricher, Finance Manager:

He reported that we published our 2025 Annual Report and he thanked Amber Gifford, Conservation and Grants Manager, and Joe Hathaway, Public Information Officer, and staff for their help and work on the report.

He reported we are finalizing the June quarterly report.

ACTION ITEM:

- Approval of Revised Wildfire Mitigation Plan. Mike Schleich, Director of Engineering and Operations, reported that we have been in wildfire season for about three weeks, have had two red flag warnings, and are building on the lessons learned from last year. He reported that we need to add some plan wording regarding restoring the power when there is an outage during a red flag warning. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Commissioner Moody and seconded by Commissioner Rick to approve the revised plan. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Knapp asked if there was any further business for the good of the order. Discussion was held regarding WPUA voting representatives.

Following a short recess, the meeting resumed.

WELCOME OF SUMMER STUDENT HELPERS AND SUMMER STUDENT RECOGNITION LUNCH:

Mr. Jones reported these summer students are helping out the District and this program is a great opportunity for the students to learn about utility jobs. He asked the students to introduce themselves.

Nick Ogle, is working with the engineering staff, Kellen Von Carnop is working with the brush crew, Jaceten Reijonen is working with the warehousemen, Cooper Ericksen is working in Power Supply, Berg Hughes is working with the tree trimming crew, Caden Marsengill is working with the fiber crew, and Sarah Goodman is working with the Customer Service staff.

Ms. Pfitzer emphasized that this is a great program, we currently have 14 summer students who know that they can come home and have a great job. She provided an

overview of the program application process and thanked the Board for funding the program which makes our future look better.

Mr. Jones asked the students how they found out about the program and if their schools provided information on this program. Discussion was held. He suggested that we implement a program where the District employs a person who works at the school district to help recruit students to a job in the utility industry. Discussion was held.

Following a Summer Student Recognition Lunch, the meeting resumed.

Commissioner Moody reported the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 4 at 8:30 a.m., Newport Conference Room, Newport, WA and via Microsoft Teams.

He adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary

General Counsel
Approved as to Form