

Minutes of
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY
June 2, 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: Gretchen Koenig, Member of the Public
Gerry Pelland, Member of the Public
Ernie Hood, Member of the Public
Tracy Rutt, Member of the Public
Sonya Scaufaire, Selkirk Sun, virtual
Winston Tan, Intandem, LLC, virtual

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 May 19, 2026 meeting, today's agenda, and the vouchers were reviewed.

Chris Jones, District General Manager, reported that an optional field trip to see the Heli-Dunn helicopter aerial saw tree trimming at work can be arranged at the end of the meeting if there is interest. .

As of this date, June 2, 2026, the Board, upon motion by Commissioner Moody and seconded by Commissioner Rick, approved the following:

- The agenda for June 2, 2026 meeting, and the minutes of the May 19, 2026 meeting.
- Vouchers audited and 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. 11700 through 11723 in the total amount of \$26,135.96; ACH payments in the total amount of \$241,345.64; Wire Transfers in

the total amount of \$390,088.21; and ACH payroll transactions in the total amount of \$304,373.42 for the payroll ending May 15, 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

SAFETY SPOTLIGHT:

Katie Pfitzer, District Director of Administrative Services, reported we are at 504 days without any reportable work-related injuries. She reviewed employee Core Value Safety Awards. She reported we had a near-miss incident that is under review and a root cause analysis will be done. She reported the safety trainings for this month are pole top rescue, confined space, and ergonomics. Next month's safety trainings are distractions and defensive driving, and CPR and water rescue at Box Canyon.

Mr. Jones reported that we have many job positions where it's a one-person department and he commends staff for stepping up to help when needed. Ms. Pfitzer reported that it's a culture of teamwork and dependability.

Cole Bauer, District Warehouseman, introduced Jaceten Reijonen, District Summer Student Helper at the Newport Warehouse. Mr. Reijonen provided his background and future career plans. The Board welcomed him to the District.

CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT:

Commissioner Knapp thanked the customer service staff for what they do and noted that they are especially great during outages.

Shannon Johnston, District Customer Service Supervisor, reviewed the Budget Billing program and explained how it is calculated. She reported that customers can call the office or stop by to sign up and if they are already enrolled, their new payment amount will take effect July 1. Discussion was held.

COMMISSION REPORT:

Commissioner Moody attended an Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) meeting on May 20 in Usk and a Greater Newport Area Chamber of Commerce meeting on May 26 in Newport and provided an overview.

Commissioner Rick attended the EDAC meeting on May 20 in Usk and a Tri-County Economic Development District meeting on May 27 in Colville and provided an overview.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC/OPEN COMMENT PERIOD:

Commissioner Knapp thanked everyone for attending and reviewed the guidelines for this session. He asked if anyone had any comments.

Gretchen Koenig, member of the public, provided public comment.

Gerry Pelland, member of the public, distributed a handout and provided public comment.

Ernie Hood, member of the public, provided public comment. Discussion was held.

Tracy Rutt, member of the public, provided public comment. Discussion was held.

Sonya Scaufaire, Selkirk Sun, provided public comment.

Commissioner Knapp thanked everyone for their comments and for attending.

COMMISSION REPORT (continued):

Commissioner Knapp attended a Northwest Public Power Association Annual Conference on May 19 – 22 in Spokane, a virtual Energy Northwest meeting yesterday, and a Heli-Dunn Aerial Saw Event yesterday.

COMMISSION BUSINESS:

Commissioner Moody will attend a Northeast Washington Broadband Action Team meeting on June 4 in Colville and a Pend Oreille Representatives meeting on June 10 in Newport.

Commissioner Rick will attend a PUD Community Information Forum on June 4 in Metaline Falls and the Pend Oreille Representatives meeting on June 10 in Newport.

Commissioner Knapp will attend virtual Public Power Council meetings on June 3 - 4, a Financial Forecast and Wildfire Mitigation meeting with staff on June 8 in Newport, and the Pend Oreille Representatives meeting on June 10 in Newport. He asked if Commissioner Rick could start and run the Representatives meeting as he may be late. Commissioner Rick will run the meeting.

GENERAL MANAGER REPORT:

Mr. Jones reported that during today's break the Board and staff will recess to have a closed session for labor negotiations that is allowed under RCW 42.30.140.

He reported there is a PUD Community Information Forum on June 4 at the Cutter Theatre in Metaline Falls starting at 5:30 p.m. and that we're trying to get as much information out to the public as we can. Discussion was held.

He reported that time permitting, at the end of today's meeting it will be extended for the Board, staff, and public to see a Heli-Dunn helicopter aerial saw tree trimming demonstration.

He commended all staff who were involved in restoring power, fiber, and water from last week's storm for their efforts and hard work.

Mike Schleich, District Director of Engineering and Operations, thanked Ms. Scaufaire for her kind comments and posting updates on Facebook. He reported that in his tenure with the District this was the most powerful storm he's been a part of and it affected many departments. He reported that within 24 hours (except for a few customers) the county was restored and all issues were resolved. He provided an overview of the storm's path and power restoration. He reviewed the lessons learned and commended staff for their work efforts. Discussion was held.

PUBLIC HEARING – POLE ATTACHMENT FEE ADJUSTMENTS:

Pursuant to notice given to the Newport Miner, a public hearing to review and discuss the pole attachment fee adjustments commenced at 9:30 a.m. There were seven members of the public in attendance.

Sarah Holderman, District Director of Customer Services, reported that the Board sets the rates and takes staff and public comments into account. She provided a presentation on the rate methodology. Discussion was held. She is proposing a \$5 annual rate increase from \$30 to \$35. She reported the rate will be analyzed annually and an action item for the Board's approval will be scheduled for the June 16 meeting. Discussion was held.

Commissioner Knapp asked if there were any questions or comments. Discussion was held.

The public hearing ended at 9:48 a.m.

FINANCIAL REVIEW:

April Owen, District Director of Finance, provided an April Financials presentation regarding inflation, interest income, cash and investments, capital projects, expenses, electric system usage and revenue and forecast and debt service coverage, and Box Canyon revenues and expenses and forecast and generation, and Community Network System revenues and expenses, and Water Systems revenues and expenses.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Approval of Bid Award for Dock Crew Contract No. 26-203. Mr. Jones provided an overview. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Commissioner Moody and seconded by Commissioner Rick to award the bid to the apparent low bidder, Palouse Power in the total not-to-exceed amount of \$1,000,000. The motion passed unanimously.

- Approval of Revised Data Privacy Policy. Ms. Holderman reported the revisions include general updates and ensures compliance with the RCWs. A motion was made by Commissioner Rick and seconded by Commissioner Moody to approve the revised policy. The motion passed unanimously.
- Approval of Premium Class Services Contracts. Ms. Holderman reported that per policy all of our premium class services are by contract, the Board sets the rates, and when we have a new customer the Board needs to approve. A motion was made by Commissioner Moody and seconded by Commissioner Rick to approve the contracts. The motion passed unanimously.
- Approval of Declaration of Surplus Property – Information Technology Equipment. Bob Pebles, District Information Technology Manager, provided an overview and reported we will offer the equipment to our local school districts and if they are not interested, then it will be recycled through an e-cycler. A motion was made by Commissioner Rick and seconded by Commissioner Moody to approve and declare the equipment 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.

Commissioner Knapp announced that the meeting will recess so that the Board of Commissioners and staff can go into a 30-minute closed session to discuss labor negotiations allowed under RCW 42.30.140. The session will start at 10:35 a.m. and the Board will come back into open session at 11:05 a.m.

At 11:05 a.m., Commissioner Knapp publicly announced that the recess for a closed session to discuss labor negotiations allowed under RCW 42.30.140 is being extended for 30 minutes and will end at 11:30 a.m.

- Approval of Ratification of IBEW Local No. 77 Union Contract. A motion was made by Commissioner Moody and seconded by Commissioner Rick to accept and approve the contract as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Knapp announced a 60-minute executive session for the performance evaluation of a public employee will begin at 11:35 a.m. and end at 12:35 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 and extend the meeting for a Heli-Dunn aerial saw demonstration.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE:

A 60-minute executive session for the performance evaluation of a public employee commenced at 11:35 a.m. The following were in attendance: Board of Commissioners; Katie Pfitzer, Director of Administrative Services; and Winston Tan, Intandem, LLC, virtual. Mr. Tan was excused from the executive session at 12:05 p.m. Ms. Pfitzer was excused from the executive session at 12:15 p.m. At 12:35 p.m., Commissioner Knapp publicly announced that the executive session was being extended for 25 minutes and end at 1:00 p.m. The executive session ended at 1:00 p.m. and the Board returned to open session. No final action was taken during the executive session.

Commissioner Knapp reported that due to time constraints, the Board will reschedule the Heli-Dunn helicopter aerial saw demonstration. He asked if there was any further business for the good of the order. There was none.

Ms. Willner reported that the next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, 2026, starting at 8:30 a.m., in the Newport Conference Room, in Newport and via Microsoft Teams.

Commissioner Knapp adjourned the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary

General Counsel
Approved as to Form