

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF  
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 11, 2022  
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Franklin County held a regular meeting at 1411 West Clark St., Pasco, WA, on January 11, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. This meeting was ran in accordance with the current *Proclamation by the Governor, Amending and Extending 20-05, and 20-28 Open Public Meetings Act and Public Records Act* in effect; a conference call option was provided for the public to participate.

Those who participated from the District via remote technology or in person for all or part of the meeting were Commissioner Roger Wright, President; Commissioner Bill Gordon, Vice President; Commissioner Stu Nelson, Secretary; Scott Rhees, General Manager; Holly Dohrman, Assistant General Manager; Steve Ferraro, Safety & Labor Relations Director; Victor Fuentes, Engineering Director; Brian Iller, outside General Counsel, and Rosario Viera, Supervisor of Executive Administration.

There was no additional staff that participated in person or via remote technology for all or part of the meeting.

There were no members of the public participating in person or via the conference call option for any part of the meeting.

**OPENING**

Commissioner Wright called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Commissioner Wright called for public comment and there was none.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda consisted of approval of the December 10, 2021 Special Commission Meeting minutes. Commissioner Nelson moved and Commissioner Gordon seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 5**

**AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF THREE PHASE DISTRIBUTION PADMOUNT TRANSFORMERS.**

Mr. Fuentes introduced the agenda item and reviewed the background information as reported on the Agenda Item Summary included in the meeting packet. He noted that the District requested sealed bids from contractors for the purchase of 2500 kVa three phase padmount transformers required to meet the District's needs. The bid requested a base bid for the purchase of five (5)

transformers with the option to purchase up to ten (10).

Mr. Fuentes reported that the bids were opened on Monday, January 10, 2022. He provided an updated Agenda Item Summary and noted that staff received and evaluated the following three (3) bids:

| <u>Bidder:</u>        | <u>Total Base Bid:</u> | <u>Exceptions:</u> |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| WEG Transformers Inc. | \$275,025              | Yes                |
| ABB/Wesco Inc.        | \$347,500              | Yes                |
| Cooper/Wesco Inc.     | \$295,165              | Yes                |

Mr. Fuentes reported that the bid submitted by WEG Transformers Inc. had technical exceptions on the transformer dimensions and inside tank painting which are acceptable to the District. He noted that ABB/Wesco Inc. had technical exceptions that included different transformer dimensions, no ground lugs, and no asphalt undercoating which are acceptable. However, ABB/Wesco Inc., had an alternate clamp connector and added a price adjustment clause which was not acceptable to the District. The bid submitted by Cooper/Wesco Inc. also had technical exceptions of no asphalt undercoating and transformer dimensions which would have been acceptable. Discussion ensued on the exceptions that were reviewed.

Commissioner Wright asked for additional information on the acceptance of bids with exceptions and Mr. Iller provided the clarification.

Mr. Fuentes reported that staff was seeking authorization to purchase seven (7) 2500 kVa three phase padmount transformers.

Commissioner Nelson asked for clarification on the amount being asked for authorization compared to the base bid amount. Mr. Fuentes noted that the base bid was for five (5) 2500 kVa three phase padmount transformers and staff's recommendation was for the purchase of seven. Discussion ensued on the supply chain delays and price increases being experienced on the purchase of materials and equipment. The Commission noted that it would be prudent to purchase materials and equipment in advance to ensure the planned maintenance and system projects are not delayed, and that the District can accommodate the future economic growth. Discussion ensued. The Commission noted that staff should try and purchase more transformers if available.

Commissioner Wright reported that staff should have the flexibility of purchasing up to ten (10) transformers at the same pricing and Commissioners Gordon and Nelson agreed.

Commissioner Gordon moved and Commissioner Nelson seconded to authorize the General Manager or his designee to execute a contract with WEG Transformers Inc., the lowest responsive bidder, for the purchase of up to ten (10) three phase transformers in a not to exceed amount of \$550,050. The motion passed unanimously.

***Northwest River Partners Lower Snake River Dams Campaign Request***


Commissioner Wright brought forth the matter of a new funding request for a pro Lower Snake River Dams (LSRD) campaign from Northwest River Partners (NWRP) and asked Mr. Rhees to provide additional information. Mr. Rhees reported that NWRP has asked the surrounding Tri City utilities for a very large funding request for an aggressive advertising campaign associated


with anticipated legislative action to breach the LSRD from Senator Murray and Governor Inslee. He noted that no specifics have been provided as to what the campaign will target and noted that he would like additional discussion at the next regular meeting. Mr. Rhees reported that the NWRP Executive Director has been scheduled to provide an update to the Commission at the February 22, 2022 regular meeting. The Commission agreed that additional discussion was needed before any decisions could be made.

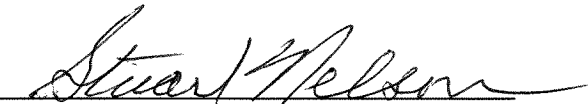
Mr. Rhees reported that staff will continue to review the funding request and will bring a recommendation to the Commission in the upcoming meetings.

### **MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Wright adjourned the regular meeting at 1:23 p.m. The next regular meeting will be January 25, 2022 at 1:00 pm, and will be held in accordance with the current Governor's proclamation in affect. Members of the public may participate via conference call.

  
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Roger Wright, President

  
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William Gordon, Vice President

  
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Stuart Nelson, Secretary