

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

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 24, 2025  
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

The Board of Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Franklin County, Washington held a regular meeting at 1411 W. Clark St., Pasco, WA, on June 24, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. Remote technology options were 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 included Commissioner Roger Wright, President; Commissioner Bill Gordon, Vice President; Commissioner Pedro Torres, Secretary; Victor Fuentes, Interim General Manager/CEO; Steve Ferraro, Assistant General Manager; Katrina Fulton, Finance and Customer Service Director; Rosario Viera, Public Information Officer; Scott Rhees, Director of Executive Administration; Tyler Whitney, General Counsel; Nicole Kirby, Senior Accountant; Mitch Sumner, Community Relations Coordinator; and Jessica Marshall, Executive Assistant.

Public participants attending in person or via remote technology for all or part of the meeting included Tim Nies, Customer and Rate Advisory Committee member; Mary Beth Evans and William Rimmer with BPA.

**OPENING**

Commissioner Wright called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and asked Ms. Kirby to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Commissioner Wright called for public comment.

Ms. Evans and Mr. Rimmer introduced themselves and reported their attendance today was to introduce Ms. Evans, Eastern Power Customer Services Manager, to the District and answer any questions the Commissioners and staff may have for BPA. Mr. Rimmer thanked staff for submitting the District's BPA's product choice selection and reviewed the contracting process.

Commissioner Gordon requested information regarding the status of the Columbia River Treaty and a brief discussion was held. Mr. Rimmer will keep the Commission and staff informed as they learn more.

A brief update was provided on BPA staffing and BPA's commitment to join the Southwest Power Pool (SPP).

The Commission thanked Ms. Evans and Mr. Rimmer for attending today's commission meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 3, ADOPTING A RESOLUTION APPOINTING VICTOR FUENTES TO THE POSITION OF GENERAL MANAGER/CEO OF PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF FRANKLIN COUNTY**

Commissioner Wright introduced the agenda item and reviewed the information as reported on the Agenda Item Summary included in the meeting packet. In accordance with RCW 54.16.100, Resolution 1434 was introduced at the June 10, 2025 regular Commission meeting and was brought back to today's regular commission meeting for further discussion and action.

Commissioner Wright reported the Commission have successfully completed the selection process of the General Manager/CEO position and after full consideration to the applicants, recommend Mr. Fuentes as the most qualified and experienced candidate to fill the role as the new General Manager/CEO for the District. Commissioner Wright recommended the Commission adopt Resolution 1434 as presented in the meeting packet.

Motion by Commissioner Torres, seconded by Commissioner Gordon Adopting Resolution 1434 as presented.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**AGENDA ITEM 4, ADOPTING A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE GENERAL MANAGER/CEO**

Commissioner Wright introduced the agenda item and reviewed the information as reported on the Agenda Item Summary included in the meeting packet.

Commissioner Wright, as president of the Commission, has successfully negotiated an employment agreement with Mr. Fuentes. The Commissioners have determined an employment agreement serves the public interest of the District and it will be beneficial to the District to provide for the employment of a highly qualified General Manager/CEO.

Motion by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Torres Adopting Resolution 1435 as presented.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Wright thanked fellow Commissioners and staff for their work on this process.

Mr. Fuentes thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to serve as the District's General Manager/CEO. He noted the District's number one priority is Safety and is proud to be a part of the District's mission.

A brief recess was done for photos with the Commission and staff.

## **EMPLOYEE MINUTE**

Commissioner Wright welcomed Ms. Kirby and asked general questions about her current position, tasks her position entails, favorite parts of her job, her professional growth at the District and what safety improvements or changes she has seen over the course of her employment.

Ms. Kirby reported that she has been with the District for 7 years and briefly described her job duties within the Accounting Department.

Commissioner Wright reported that the Commission believes strongly in Safety First and asked if there were any improvements that could be made. Ms. Kirby noted the customer service lobby remodel has made it safer as well as moving all staff to the same 4-10's work schedule. Ms. Kirby thanked the Commissioners and staff for their efforts in keeping everyone safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Kirby asked the Commissioners about their short-term goals following the appointment of the District's new General Manager/CEO. Commissioner Wright responded that they would like to maintain the District's commitment to safety, reliability, and cost-effectiveness as well as continuing to have a good reputation throughout the community.

Commissioner Wright thanked Ms. Kirby for her attendance.

## **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Gordon reported that:

- He attended the APPA National Conference and reviewed sessions attended.
- The Columbia Generating Station was shut down on Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> after coming back online a week prior from the scheduled plant outage. A brief discussion was held on the reasons for the shutdown, along with recent retirement announcements from Energy Northwest.

Commissioner Torres reported that:

- He attended the State Auditor's Office CETA Entrance conference yesterday and reviewed a couple takeaways from the meeting.
- He also attended the APPA National Conference and reviewed the two pre-conference sessions attended.

Commissioner Wright reported that:

- He attended the NoaNet Board Meeting and noted the District's member loan has been paid off. A brief discussion was held regarding potential new memberships with NoaNet.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The Commission reviewed the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Wright requested staff begin to review a line item from the expenditure report during future Commission meetings, under Management Reports.

Motion by Commissioner Torres, seconded by Commissioner Gordon approving the Consent Agenda as follows.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 1) To approve the minutes of the May 27, 2025 Regular Commission Meeting.
- 2) To approve the minutes of the June 10, 2025 Regular Commission Meeting.
- 3) To approve payment of expenditures for May 2025 amounting to \$9,201,882.27 as audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and as reviewed/certified by the General Manager/CEO as required by RCW 54.16.100, and expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 and as listed in the attached registers and made available to the Commission for inspection prior to this action as follows:

<b>Expenditure Type:</b>	<b>Amounts:</b>
Direct Deposit Payroll – Umpqua Bank	\$ 818,707.47
Wire Transfers	5,711,984.21
Automated and Refund Vouchers (Checks)	1,338,072.78
Direct Deposits (EFTs)	1,333,461.36
Voids	(343.55)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$9,201,882.27</b>

- 4) To approve the Write Offs in substantially the amount listed on the June 2025 Write Off Report totaling \$5,261.52.

**AGENDA ITEM 8, ADOPTING A RESOLUTION APPROVING REVISED RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR ELECTRIC SERVICE AND SUPERSEDING RESOLUTION 1420**

Ms. Fulton introduced the agenda item and reviewed the information as reported on the Agenda Item Summary included in the meeting packet.

A brief discussion was held on notifying legacy Net Metering customers as well as informing local realtors of the Net Metering updates.

Commissioner Wright provided an update on the customer complaint he reviewed during the May 27, 2025 Commission meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Torres, seconded by Commissioner Gordon adopting Resolution 1436 as presented.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**AGENDA ITEM 9, AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER/CEO OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR LABOR, EQUIPMENT, AND MATERIAL REQUIRED TO UPDATE THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM AT THE DISTRICT'S ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

Mr. Ferraro introduced the agenda item and reviewed the information as reported on the Agenda Item Summary included in the meeting packet.

A brief discussion was held on the bid received, the project, and capacity for the District's administration building.

Motion by Commissioner Gordon, seconded by Commissioner Torres authorizing the Interim General Manager/CEO or his designee to execute a contract with Fulcrum Electric, LLC, the lowest response bidder, for the labor, equipment, and material required to upgrade the electrical system at the District's administration building in an amount not to exceed \$986,446.00, not including sales and/or state tax.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**AGENDA ITEM 10, DISCUSSING ENERGY NORTHWEST RUBY FLATS SOLAR PROJECT**

Mr. Fuentes introduced the agenda item and reviewed the information as reported on the Agenda Item Summary included in the meeting packet.

Mr. Fuentes reviewed the contents of a letter of intent received for the Ruby Flats Solar Project. A brief discussion was held on staff's recommendation to send a response letter to Energy Northwest addressing key concerns.

Commissioner Gordon noted a discussion occurred related to this project during the last Energy Northwest Board of Director's Meeting. Mr. Rhees provided a couple comments on the project and agreed with fellow staff to send a response letter.

The Board of Commissioners concurred with staff's recommendation to send a response letter to EN addressing key concerns.

**AGENDA ITEM 11, ADOPTING A RESOLUTION APPROVING A REVISED SALARY ADMINISTRATION PLAN FOR REGULAR NON-BARGAINING EMPLOYEES AND SUPERSEDING RESOLUTION 1423**

Mr. Fuentes introduced the agenda item and reviewed the information as reported on the Agenda Item Summary included in the meeting packet.

Mr. Fuentes noted the two proposed job title additions to the Salary Administration Plan are due to backfilling needs and anticipated retirements. A brief discussion was held on potential

responsibilities of the Operations Manager and the difference between Manager and Director roles.

Motion by Commissioner Torres, seconded by Commissioner Gordon adopting Resolution No. 1437 as presented.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER/CEO REPORT**

Mr. Fuentes reported that:

- The customer referenced by Commissioner Wright earlier in today's meeting indicated they may come to a future Commission meeting to further discuss their concerns.
- Three District Broadband employees will transition to NoaNet on Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. The District plans to send letters formally notifying Retail Service Providers of the transition within the next two weeks.
- He attended the APPA National Conference as well and reviewed a PowerPoint slide from the conference which showed the Railroad Avenue Substation.
- Staff will continue providing the Commission packet and related minutes as they are currently.

Commissioner Wright reviewed Mr. Fuentes' proposed 2025 goals, which are in addition to the District's Operating Plan. Commissioner Wright requested the other members of the Commission provide feedback to Mr. Fuentes and noted he will work with Mr. Fuentes to finalize the goals.

### **FINANCE & CUSTOMER SERVICE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Ms. Fulton reported that:

- The May 2025 KPI's were included in the commission packet and she reviewed pertinent slides from within the report.
- The Power department continues to meet with BPA and participate in Transmission related meetings with BPA.
- She and Mr. Johnson visited Powerex facilities in April and noted that Powerex plans to meet at the District in July. A brief discussion was held on the partnership with Powerex.
- The Wheatfield Project purchase power agreement has been signed.
- She attended the APPA National Conference and reviewed some of the sessions she attended.
- The District will receive a finding from the State Auditor's Office (SAO) related to the Federal Grant audit on the Fiber to Home project, due to the District's procurement policy not including federal grant policy language. While there was no adverse effect and the District did follow its policies, the SAO views this as an internal control issue. The District will submit an entity response which will be included in the SAO's audit finding.

### **ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

Mr. Ferraro reported that:

- The glass for the lobby remodel will be delivered next week.
- Staff from Kittitas PUD toured the District's Administration and Operation buildings to gain ideas for their new facility.
- He attended a deferred compensation meeting in May.
- He attended a UIP meeting and noted potential insurance changes with the new contract.
- Union contract negotiations are preparing to begin.
- The District has experienced a few outages and a brief discussion was held on the cause of the outages.
- He and Mr. Fuentes attended the County Emergency Preparedness Assessment meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup> and reviewed items from the meeting.

### **PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER REPORT**

Ms. Viera reported that:

- She will issue a press release on the appointment of Mr. Fuentes to the General Manager/CEO position.
- The Tri-Cities STEM Career Academy started on Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> and is going well. District staff will attend on Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup> to build electric vehicles with the students.
- The District will participate in the City of Pasco's Grand Old 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.
- Mitch Sumner, who briefly attended today's meeting, is the District's new Community Relations Coordinator and has been a great addition to the District.

### **DIRECTOR OF EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. Rhees reported that:

- He continues to work with staff on District related projects and congratulated Mr. Fuentes on the appointment of the General Manager/CEO position.

### **LEGAL COUNSEL**


Mr. Whitney reported that:


- He will attend the July WPUDA Meetings at Skagit PUD to provide a presentation on the Washington State Voting Rights Act.


Mr. Fuentes noted the District's safety BBQ will take place on Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Staff will add a calendar reminder to the Commissioners calendars.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Wright adjourned the regular meeting at 10:50 a.m. The next regular meeting will be July 22, 2025, and begin

at 8:30 a.m. The meeting will be at the District’s Auditorium located at 1411 W. Clark Street, Pasco, WA. Remote technology options will be provided for members of the public to participate.

*Roger G. Wright*  
  
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Roger Wright, President

*Bill Gordon*  
  
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Bill Gordon, Vice President

*Paul J. Wires, Jr.*  
  
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Paul J. Wires, Jr., Secretary



Document History

SignNow E-Signature Audit Log

All dates expressed in MM/DD/YYYY (US)

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