

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

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 10, 2026
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 February 10, 2026 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 Bill Gordon, President; Commissioner Pedro Torres, Vice-President; Commissioner Roger Wright, Secretary; Victor Fuentes, General Manager/CEO; Steve Ferraro, Assistant General Manager; Katrina Fulton, Finance and Customer Service Director; Rosario Viera, Public Information Officer; Mark Hay, Engineering & Operations Director; Brian Johnson, Power Manager; Maurilio Lopez, Senior Energy Programs Representative; and Jessica Marshall, Executive Assistant.

Those who participated from the Public via remote technology or in person for all or part of the meeting included Tim Nies, rate payer; Will MacHugh and Shane Monroe, Eltopia Communications; Rich Nall, NoaNet, and a member of the public via remote technology.

OPENING

Commissioner Gordon called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and Mr. Lopez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Gordon requested the Employee Minute agenda item be moved before the Public Comment portion of today's meeting. Commissioners Torres and Wright concurred, and the agenda was adjusted.

EMPLOYEE MINUTE

Commissioner Gordon welcomed Mr. Lopez and asked general questions about his current position, tasks his position entails, favorite parts of the job, his professional growth at the District and what safety improvements or changes he has seen over the course of her employment.

Mr. Lopez briefly described his job duties within the Energy Services Department. A brief discussion was held regarding his responsibilities, which include assisting customers with high bills, as well as providing guidance on safety and energy conservation improvements customers can make to their homes and businesses. Mr. Lopez shared with the Commission a safety tip he always provides customers is to treat panels and outlets as if they are always

energized, and to confirm they are off before working on them.

Commissioner Gordon asked how he has grown professionally at the District. Mr. Lopez reported that he has grown by learning more about District departments and programs in order to be a better representative of the District.

Commissioner Gordon reported that the Commission believes strongly in Safety First and asked if there were any improvements that could be made. Mr. Lopez did not have a safety improvement suggestion but stated he feels the District is headed in the right direction with its operations.

Commissioner Gordon thanked Mr. Lopez for her attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Gordon called for public comment and Mr. Will MacHugh with Eltopia Communications requested to speak.

In attendance with Mr. MacHugh was Shane Monroe, also with Eltopia Communications. Mr. MacHugh provided a public comment regarding the District's Fiber-To-The-Home Project and concerns he has. The Commission accepted Mr. MacHugh's comments and noted that staff would review the concerns.

Mr. Fuentes noted that he would reach out to Mr. MacHugh following today's meeting to schedule a time to meet with him and review his concerns.

Mr. MacHugh thanked the Commission for their time. Mr. MacHugh and Mr. Monroe left the Commission Meeting.

No additional public comment was received.

Mr. Nall left the Commission Meeting.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Torres reported that:

- He attended the PPC Meetings last week and reported on the announcement of John Hairston, BPA Administrator, retiring from federal service.
- He attended the Pasco Chamber of Commerce luncheon last month.

Commissioner Wright reported that:

- He virtually attended the PPC member forum last week and briefly reviewed highlights from that meeting.
- He will review a NoaNet member update later in today's meeting.

Commissioner Gordon reported that:

- He observed a District contractor working on a project at Levey Park in Franklin County.

CONSENT AGENDA

Staff reviewed questions received from the Commission ahead of today’s meeting regarding customer refunds and write-offs that were included on the Consent Agenda.

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 1) To approve the minutes of the January 27, 2026 Regular Commission Meeting.
- 2) To approve payment of expenditures for January 2026 amounting to \$10,276,173.84 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:

Expenditure Type:	Amounts:
Direct Deposit Payroll – Umpqua Bank	\$ 597,585.77
Wire Transfers	6,818,260.00
Automated and Refund Vouchers (Checks)	1,260,794.03
Direct Deposits (EFTs)	1,599,534.04
Voids	(0.00)
Total:	\$10,276,173.84

- 3) To approve the Write Offs in substantially the amount listed on the February 2026 Write Off Report totaling \$3,254.61.
- 4) To declare final acceptance of the work completed as inspected by the District; to authorize release of available retainage; and to approve final payment in the amount of \$1,321.31 for work completed by Boyd’s Tree Services LLC under Contract 10209, Tree Trimming Services Year Two.
- 5) To declare final acceptance of the work completed as inspected by the District; to authorize release of available retainage; and to approve final payment in the amount of \$4,119.45 for work completed by Paramount Communications, Inc. under Contract 10514, 2025 Miscellaneous Fiber Dock Crew Projects.

- 6) To declare final acceptance of the work completed as inspected by the District; to authorize release of available retainage; and to approve final payment in the amount of \$7,589.25 for work completed by Pacific Pole Inspections, LLC under Contract 10579, Pole Testing and Treatment Year One.
- 7) To declare final acceptance of the work completed as inspected by the District; to authorize release of available retainage, and to approve final payment in the amount of \$4,564.00 for work completed by Intermountain Cleaning Service, Inc. under Contract 10233, Janitorial Services Year Two.
- 8) To declare final acceptance of the work completed as inspected by the District; to authorize release of available retainage; and to approve final payment in the amount of \$712.08 for work completed by Apollo Sheet Metal, Inc. under Contract 10162, HVAC Maintenance Year Two.

AGENDA ITEM 6, BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEMS (BESS) PROJECT PRESENTATION

Mr. Johnson gave a presentation on the Battery Storage Systems (BESS) Project, that included development constraints, project timeline and description, long-term resource planning, daily load-resource balance, BESS pros and cons, and financials.

Discussions were held on the project timeline, battery selection, safety, and ongoing maintenance.

Mr. Nies reported on Energy Northwest's battery project and issues they experienced related to the batteries being unable to dispatch in extreme weather conditions. Mr. Johnson noted the Lithium Iron Phosphate batteries planned for this project should perform better under those extreme conditions.

The Commission thanked Mr. Johnson for attending today's meeting and providing additional information on the BESS project.

Staff plan to return to a future Commission Meeting as the project progresses.

AGENDA ITEM 7, ADOPTING A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR RISK MANAGEMENT AND TRADING OPERATIONS AND SUPERSEDING RESOLUTIONS 992, 993, AND 1400

Ms. Fulton introduced the agenda item and reviewed the background information as reported in the Agenda Item Summary included in the meeting packet. This item was brought to the January 27, 2026 Commission Meeting, and staff did not receive any additional comments from the Commission. Staff have incorporated one edit to the Resolution defining administrative changes.

Motion by Commissioner Torres, seconded by Commissioner Wright adopting Resolution 1446

as presented.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

At 9:23 a.m., Commissioner Gordon called for a break to last approximately 10 minutes.

At 9:31 a.m., Commissioner Gordon reconvened the regular meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 8, ADOPTING A RESOLUTION FINDING DISTRICT PROPERTY SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER/CEO OR HIS DESIGNEE TO CONVEY THIS PROPERTY TO THE PORT OF PASCO (THE PORT)

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

Commissioner Wright noted this is a great partnership opportunity.

Motion by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Torres adopting Resolution 1447 as presented.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MANAGEMENT REPORTS

GENERAL MANAGER/CEO REPORT

Mr. Fuentes reported that:

- John Hairston, BPA Administrator, has provided his notice to retire from federal service and is in negotiations with Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB). Mr. Fuentes noted EWEB has chosen the BPA Block with Shaping contract and believes Mr. Hairston's expertise will be helpful. A brief discussion was held.
- A brief update was given on the Columbia River System Operations (CRSO), and he reviewed highlights from the February PPC/PNUCC Meetings.
- Energy Northwest has cancelled the February informational sessions that were scheduled for the Cascade Advanced Energy Facility.
- He spoke with Mr. William Rimmer, Account Executive with BPA, and Mr. Rimmer plans to attend the March 24, 2026 Commission Meeting to provide BPA updates.

Commissioner Wright reviewed a NoaNet member update and reminded fellow Commissioners of the Board direction given during the August 26, 2025 Commission Meeting authorizing the District's member representative to vote on a resolution to admit Broadlinc as a NoaNet member.

Commissioner Wright noted that NoaNet member representatives are being asked to vote on a resolution during the March NoaNet Board meeting, to approve Bigfoot as a new member. Commissioner Wright recommended that fellow Commissioners support staff's recommendation to authorize the District's representative to vote to admit Bigfoot as a

member. Commissioners Torres and Gordon concurred with Commissioner Wright's recommendation.

Motion by Commissioner Torres, seconded by Commissioner Gordon authorizing the District's member representative to vote to admit Bigfoot as a NoaNet member.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

A brief discussion was held regarding the BPA Administrator position and comments PPC has submitted on this subject.

FINANCE & CUSTOMER SERVICE DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Fulton reported that:

- Staff continue to monitor the power forecast for the year 2026 and will review January and February 2026 KPI's during the March Commission meeting.
- Staff expect to hear from Energy Northwest regarding the Nine Canyon Wind Farm project next month and will continue to keep the Commission updated.
- Staff performed an invoice audit on a line item from the January 2026 Check Register included in the Commission packet.

Commissioner Wright posed a question regarding snow and the water year, and a brief discussion was held.

Mr. Fuentes provided a brief update on the Ruby Flats project and will return to a future Commission Meeting with additional updates.

ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

Mr. Hay reported that:

- For his audit, he reviewed the District's monthly fuel bill, and reviewed the process with the Commission.

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

Mr. Ferraro reported that:

- He gave updates on the District's power upgrade project.
- For his audit, he reviewed the District's monthly Verizon bill, and reviewed the process with the Commission.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Ms. Viera reported that:

- Staff are attending an Energy Northwest Career Fair at Columbia Basin College today.
- The Washington PUD Association has a \$1,500 Educational Scholarship that will be awarded to a dependent of a PUD employee and member of WPUDA. She reviewed the eligibility criteria and plans to review any submissions received during the March

24, 2026 Commission Meeting. The Board of Commissioners concurred with staff's recommendation to select one submission to forward to WPUDA for consideration.

- Staff met with Toni Ball, Central Washington Regional Community Outreach Director for Senator Patty Murray. She noted that outreach is in progress to the offices of Representative Dan Newhouse and Senator Maria Cantwell to schedule meetings and continue building relationships with the District's Legislative representatives.
- For her audit, she reviewed an open public records request from 2024 and reviewed a spreadsheet staff developed to track and verify that all disclosable emails were provided to the requester. A brief discussion was held on the current number of open public records requests and the District's fee schedule policy.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:08 a.m., Commissioner Gordon called for 2-minute break and noted it would be immediately followed by an executive session.

At 10:10 a.m., the Board of Commissioners entered into an executive session to conclude at 10:30 a.m. The purpose of the executive session were the following reasons:

- RCW 42.30.110(1)(g): *to review the performance of a public employee*
- RCW 42.30.110(1)(c): *to consider the minimum price at which real estate will be offered for sale or lease*

At 10:30 a.m., Commissioner Gordon extended the executive session to conclude at 10:35 a.m., for the same two reasons listed previously.

At 10:35 a.m., Commissioner Gordon ended the executive session and reconvened the regular meeting.

Commissioner Gordon held a discussion with fellow Commissioners on the accomplishments of Mr. Fuentes. After discussion, the Commission agreed that an adjustment to Mr. Fuentes' annual compensation was needed. The Board of Commissioners directed Commissioner Wright to meet with Mr. Fuentes on behalf of the Commission in advance of the March 24, 2026 Commission Meeting.

The Commission requested staff bring back a resolution for consideration to the March 24, 2026 Commission Meeting.

With no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Gordon adjourned the regular meeting at 10:37 a.m. The next regular meeting will be March 24, 2026 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.



William Gordon, President



Pedro Torres, Jr., Vice President



Roger Wright, Secretary