

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanogan County  
Public Utility District Board of Commissioners**

Oroville PUD Office  
1500 Main St., Oroville, WA  
February 22, 2005  
6:00 p.m.

**Present:**

Board: Ernest Bolz, David Womack, Donald Johnson  
Staff: Chuck Berrie, Doug Adams, Derek Miller, Dan Boettger, Glenn Huber,  
Steve Brown, Julie Pyper  
Other: Michael Howe - Legal Counsel  
Public: Roberta Donnor, Mike Brooks, Richard Werner, Jason Dodgen,  
Sam Millard, Maeyowa, John Andrist, Roy Webster

**Summary Agenda**

1. Call to Order
2. Additions/Deletions to Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Approval of Work Orders
5. Approval of Vouchers
6. Bid Award/Electrical Conductor
7. Public Comment
8. DEIS Public Comment Period Discussion
9. Telecom Discussion
10. Manager's Report
11. Power Supply Report
12. Methow Transmission Line Route Filming
13. Public Comment
14. Meetings
15. Executive Session
16. Adjournment

**1. Call to Order:**

President Bolz called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. Additions/Deletions to Agenda:**

Manager Chuck Berrie added to the agenda 1) a report on the bid opening for electrical conductor and authorization to proceed; and 2) a discussion on helicopter filming of three Methow transmission line routes.

Commissioner Johnson added an executive session with the three Commissioners and legal counsel to discuss possible litigation, with no foreseen action.

### 3. Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Johnson moved, seconded by Commissioner Womack, to approve the Minutes of the February 8, 2005 regular meeting as presented.

Under Item 14 - Telecom and Radio Update, Commissioner Womack questioned if Commissioner Johnson's statement was based on a factual number or an estimate (that the District now has more than \$800,000 invested in the program, which was to be a pilot project).

Following discussion and the finding that an exact number was not available, Commissioner Johnson moved, seconded by Commissioner Womack, to amend his statement as follows: Commissioner Johnson stated that the District now has **invested about \$700,000** in the program, which was to be a pilot project. The motion unanimously carried.

The motion to accept the Minutes as amended unanimously carried.

### 4. Approval of Work Orders:

The following work orders were submitted for approval:

04-0352	Duane Resch, Lot 14, Gold Rush Ridge - Nine Mile	\$5,435.00
04-0609	Ronald Wisner, 100 Spur Rd. - Mt. Hull	1,753.00
05-0002/03	Cultural Center of Tonasket, 411 Western Ave., Tonasket	1,686.00
05-0005	Robert Kaiser, 831A Omak Ave.	832.00
05-0060	District, 5 Western Ave.	3,059.00
05-0063	District, 33352 Hwy. 97 - N. of Oroville	2,260.00
05-0064	District, 7th & Tonasket Ave.	7,297.00
05-0066	District, Wannacut Lake Rd.	1,735.00
05-0071	WDFW, 1411 Hwy. 153	933.00
05-0072	District, 1411 Hwy. 153	2,458.00
05-0073	Country Town Drilling, 91 Vintin Rd.	2,560.00
05-0075	District, Loomis Church, Loomis	4,706.00
05-0076	District, Hospital Way alley	1,300.00
05-0077	Bob Barnes, 141 Loomis/Oroville Rd.	609.00
	Total	<u>\$36,623.00</u>

Commissioner Womack moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to approve the work orders. The motion unanimously carried.

#### **5. Approval of Vouchers:**

Vouchers No.'s 85687 through 85801 in the amount of \$841,290.43, No.'s 85802 through 85827 in the amount of \$167,704.70, and No.'s 85828 through 85902 in the amount of \$1,450,494.89 were approved for payment from the revenue fund.

Commissioner Womack moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to approve the vouchers. The motion unanimously carried.

#### **6. Bid Award/Electrical Conductor:**

Chief Engineer Derek Miller reported that proposals for electrical conductor were received under Bid No. 313-05 from General Pacific, Inc. (\$87,065); Western States Electric, Inc. (\$89,540); and Wesco Distribution, Inc. (\$94,357). Miller recommended awarding the bid of \$87,065 to General Pacific, Inc. (manufacturer Nehring Electrical) as the low bidder for 165,000 feet of 336 conductor (.470/ft.) and 55,000 feet of 1/0 stranding (.173/ft.).

Commissioner Womack moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to award Bid No. 313-05 to General Pacific, Inc. in the amount of \$87,065. The motion unanimously carried.

#### **7. Public Comment:**

Manager Berrie read the Methow Transmission Project Environmental Impact Statement Public Comment Guidelines.

Relating to the Board's action at the February 8, 2005 meeting to not purchase additional radios for the wireless project until the telecom study and business plan is completed, comments were received from John Andrist of NCI Data.com and North Cascades Broadcasting; Mike Brooks of North Valley Internet; Jason Dodgen of Community Net; Richard Werner of Gold Digger Apples; Roy Webster; and Roger Bauer, Manager of Community Net, LLC (via letter dated 2-22-05).

The Manager stated that the two largest wireless customers were in favor of transitioning the PUD out of the radio business and concentrating on extending the telecom program by satisfying access to the fiber backbone and constructing towers for wireless in unserved areas.

Maeyowa inquired about the format for the Methow Transmission Line Project public hearings.

## **8. DEIS Public Comment Period Discussion:**

Dan Boettger, Director of Regulatory and Environmental Affairs, informed the Board that all known requests for copies have been satisfied with regard to parties that indicated they requested a copy of the draft Environmental Impact Statement and did not receive a copy.

The Forest Service, Tetra Tech and District staff have consulted regarding extending the 45-day comment period on the DEIS. By way of letter, the Forest Service agreed with District staff that it would be in the best interest of the public and the agencies to extend the comment period by 15 days until March 30, 2005. Manager Berrie advised the Board that he supported extending the comment period to the end of the month (March 31, 2005).

Commissioner Johnson moved, seconded by Commissioner Womack, to extend the comment period through March 31, 2005 for the Methow Transmission Line Project draft Environmental Impact Statement. The motion unanimously carried.

## **9. Telecom Discussion:**

Pertaining to the Board's decision to not purchase additional radios until after the telecom study and business plan is completed, the Internet Service Providers asked what options the District could offer in the interim so they could continue to provide wireless service to new customers.

Because a bid is currently out for radio kits and the information should be available for consideration at the next meeting, the Board agreed to evaluate the issue of purchasing radios after the bid closure. In the meantime, the ISPs were requested to provide Adams a count of the number of radios they would need over the next three months. Commissioner Womack moved, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to table any action on the purchase of additional radios for the wireless project until the March 8, 2005 Board meeting. The motion unanimously carried.

Doug Adams noted that the telecom consultant will be contacting the ISPs in the near future. The study is expected to be completed April 29, 2005.

## **10. Manager's Report:**

Manager Berrie informed the Board that the Washington PUD Association is hosting a Public Power and Water Tour March 21-24. The tour includes the opportunity to visit two generating plants as well as Bonneville Power Administration's Dittmer Control Center in Vancouver, Washington.

Derek Miller noted that the City of Brewster has requested a meeting with staff to discuss the placement of potential telecom towers.

#### **11. Power Supply Report:**

With the price of power increasing amidst concerns that lower than usual snow pack is expected this year, Manager Berrie noted there may be an opportunity for the District to sell excess power into the market.

#### **12. Methow Transmission Line Route Filming:**

From discussions on filming the three proposed Methow Transmission Line Project routes, Derek Miller acquired information from various helicopter agencies. Falcon West Helicopters of Wenatchee is available at \$450.00/hour plus \$1.00/mile fuel charge. The cost is based on four hours' estimated flying time and dependent on weather conditions. Allowing for six hours of flight time, the cost is projected not to exceed \$4,000.00. The filmed routes would be available for viewing on disk and on the District's website.

Following discussion on the value of filming transmission line routes for the public's viewing opportunity, Commissioner Womack moved, seconded by Commissioner Bolz, to authorize staff to develop a contract with Falcon West Helicopters of Wenatchee, Washington to videotape the three proposed Methow Transmission Line Project routes. The motion carried two to one with Commissioner Johnson opposed.

#### **13. Public Comment:**

Maeyowa encouraged the Board to give the same consideration to other individuals that present information as was given the telecom representatives.

Roy Webster supported tape recording of Minutes for availability on the website.

#### **14. Meetings:**

Commissioner Womack reported on the Washington PUD Association Legislative Committee meeting and Board of Directors meeting he attended in Olympia on February 17-18.

The next Okanogan PUD Board meeting is scheduled for 8:30 a.m., March 8, 2005 at the Okanogan PUD Auditorium.

#### **15. Executive Session:**

President Bolz recessed the Commission into executive session for 1.25 hours at 8:25 p.m. to discuss potential litigation, with no action anticipated.

**16. Adjournment:**

President Bolz reconvened the Commission into regular session at 9:50 p.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Ernest J. Bolz, President

ATTEST:

David A. Womack, Vice-President

Donald W. Johnson, Secretary