



PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF OKANOGAN COUNTY

1331 Second Ave N. Okanogan, WA 98840

Regular Commission Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting Info: Phone: 1-346-248-7799 Meeting ID: 922 7822 8992

Join by Zoom Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/92278228992> Meeting ID: 92278228992

January 13, 2025

SUMMARY AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Swearing in of new Commissioner Lauren McCloy

III. Business Meeting

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Election of Commission Officers and Committee Assignments
3. Roll Call
4. Review of Agenda
5. Public Comment
6. Approval of Consent Agenda
 - a) Minutes of December 9th, 2024
 - b) Vouchers
 - c) Transfer of Accounts
7. Unfinished Business - No unfinished business to discuss
 - a) Resolution No. 1828 – Amending the Employee Compensation Policy & 2025 Wage & Salary Program – 2nd Read
 - b) Amending Motion – Bead Funding
8. New Business
 - a) Motion – Basin Tree, 2025 Electrical Tree Trimming Contract
 - b) Motion – Guiding Principles
 - c) Resolution No. 1829 – Authorizing the use of Climate Commitment Act Allowance Funds
8. Administrative Reports
 - a) Steve Taylor – Managers Report
 - b) Heidi Appel – General Counsel – Public Records Review Training
 - c) Rob Gillespie – Treasurers Report
 - d) Ron Gadeberg – Power/Telecom Report
9. Other Business
10. Commissioners Meetings Attended
11. The next Board of Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 27th, 2025

IV. Executive Session RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) Current or potential litigation

V. Adjournment

I. Call to Order

President Vejraska called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. Swearing in of new Commissioner Lauren McCloy

Director of Finance & Accounting Janet Crossland administered the Oath of Office to Lauren McCloy, elected Commissioner for the position of District 2.

III. Business Meeting

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Election of 2025 Commission Officers and Committee Assignments

The election of Commissioner assignments was voted on as follows:

2025 Commissioners Assignments

	2025
President	Scott Vejraska
Vice President	Lauren McCloy
Secretary	Jerry Asmussen

Industry Committee Assignments were delegated as follows:

Committee	2025 Representative	2025 Alternate
Energy Northwest	Jerry Asmussen	Scott Vejraska
Energy Northwest (Participant Review Board)	Lauren McCloy	Scott Vejraska
Noa Net Member Representative	Lauren McCloy	Steve Taylor
Noa Net Board Member	Ron Gadeberg	John MacDonald
Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA)	Steve Taylor	Jeri Timm
Public Utility Risk Management Service (PURMS)	Lauren McCloy	Megan Morrissey
NWPPA Government Relations	Jeri Timm	Steve Taylor
Public Power Council	Steve Taylor	Ron Gadeberg
Okanogan County Watershed Planning Unit	Scott Vejraska	Jeri Timm
WPUDA Round Table	Jerry Asmussen	Scott Vejraska
WPUDA Government Relations	Jessica McCarthy	Jerry Asmussen
WPUDA Communications Committee	Jessica McCarthy	Jerry Asmussen
WPUDA Education	Jerry Asmussen	Scott Vejraska
WPUDA Energy Committee	Jerry Asmussen	Scott Vejraska 1 st alternate Lauren McCloy 2 nd alternate
WPUDA Telecom Committee	Jerry Asmussen	Lauren McCloy 1 st Alternate Scott Vejraska 2 nd Alternate
WPUDA Managers	Steve Taylor	Janet Crossland Alternate
WPUDA Board of Directors	Jerry Asmussen	Scott Vejraska

3. Roll Call

Board Members: Scott Vejraska, Jerry Asmussen, Lauren McCloy
Staff: Steve Taylor, Janet Crossland, Ron Gadeberg, Rob Gillespie, Wendy Foth, Mindy Morris, Jerry Day, Jessica McCarthy, Dan Simpson, Nick Christoph, Ryan Lafferty, Randy Bird, Roy Schwilke, Tim Andrist, John MacDonald, Kendal Ingraham, Reid Rubert, JD Adams, Scott Abrahamson,
Staff Via Zoom: JJ Boettger, Justin Dibble, Carson Wooschlager, Dale Dunckel, Tanner Way, Audie Gann, Kim Johnson, Allen Allie
Public: Pat Leigh, Julia Babkina, Katie Haven, Kent Woodruff, Kellar McCloy, Marc Daudon, Maud Daudon, Nick Timm
Public Via Zoom: One unknown number was online

4. Review of Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Approval of Consent Agenda

- a) Minutes of December 9th, 2024
- b) Vouchers:
 - 2831; 169009 through 169067, totaling \$738,048.26
 - 2832 through 2835; 169068, 169069, totaling \$546,470.79
 - 2836 through 2839; 169070 through 169136, totaling \$2,602,904.03
 - 169137 through 169184, totaling \$318,654.92
 - 2840 through 2843; 169185, 169186, 169187, totaling \$465,393.41
 - 2844; 169188 through 169224, totaling \$598,513.28
 - 169225 through 169256, totaling \$330,964.87
- c) Transfer of Accounts totaling \$4,452.76

Commissioner Asmussen moved to approve the consent agenda items (a) through (c), seconded by Commissioner McCloy; the consent agenda was approved unanimously.

7. Unfinished Business

- a) Resolution No. 1828 – Amending the Employee Compensation Policy and 2025 Wage & Salary Program – 2nd Read

Resolution No. 1828, amending the Employee Compensation Policy and 2025 Wage & Salary Program, was brought back to the Board for a second reading.

Commissioner Asmussen motioned to approve Resolution 1828, the second and final reading. Commissioner McCloy seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

b) Amending Motion – BEAD Funding

A motion to amend the Board’s previous motion dated November 18, 2024, authorizing the District’s application for BEAD funding.

After discussion, Commissioner Asmussen moved to authorize the District's application for BEAD funding for seven broadband service areas in Okanogan County, as recommended by staff, and to direct District staff to cooperate with OCEC to allow OCEC to ultimately provide broadband service in the two BEAD service areas encompassing OCEC electric customers.

Commissioner McCloy abstained from voting due to unfamiliarity with the project. The motion passed with two yes votes and one abstained.

8. New Business

a) Motion – Basin Tree, 2025 Electrical Tree Trimming Contract

Electrical System Tree Trimming Bid No. 463-24 was awarded to Basin Tree Service & Pest Control Inc. on January 2, 2025. 2025 begins year two of the seventh tree-trimming cycle. Maintaining this cycle is an essential part of Operations. The PUD is anticipated to require three full-time crews to complete all scheduled areas. This includes continued hazard tree removal in rights-of-way. Not to exceed \$1,800,000 for the year 2025.

Commissioner Asmussen moved to authorize the General Manager to execute Contract No. NC 2025-04 with Basin Tree Service & Pest Control Inc., not exceeding \$1,800,000.00, for tree trimming in the PUD service areas for the 2025 work year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCloy and passed unanimously.

b) Motion – Guiding Principles

Going into the 2025 legislation sessions in Olympia, industry and association meetings, and for public information, General Manager Taylor and Public Information Officer Jessica McCarthy requested that the Board clarify the purpose and guiding principles of the District. The following was presented:

The District’s goal is to remain an influential, credible, and trusted advocate for our utility and the public power community.

Proposed Guiding Principles:

These principles are designed to preserve, protect, and position the Okanogan PUD for long-term success:

- **Preserve:** Safeguard our local control, decision-making authority, and ability to serve our customers effectively.
- **Protect:** Shield the utility from burdensome regulations, unfunded mandates, and rules that could negatively impact our operations and customers.

- **Position:** Strategically align the utility to ensure stability, reliability, and excellence in service delivery for our customers.

Core Principles:

1. **Local Control:** Maintaining local control is essential to effectively operating the PUD.
2. **Governing Authority:** The elected Board of Commissioners retains governing authority over the PUD, including approving wildfire mitigation plans.
3. **State Assistance Programs:** State-mandated assistance programs should be fully funded and managed by the state.
4. **Lower Snake River Dams:** Support the continued operation of the lower Snake River Dams.
5. **Broadband Expansion:** Advocate for expanding broadband services throughout Okanogan County when economically feasible, including fiber-to-the-home options and retail services upon customer request.

After discussion, it was requested that “at a reasonable cost” be added after “reliability” under the bullet point labeled “Position.”

Commissioner McCloy, seconded by Commissioner Asmussen, motioned to approve the Guiding Principles motion with the addition of “at a reasonable cost” after “reliability” under bullet point “Position.” The motion passed unanimously.

9. Administrative Reports

a) Steve Taylor, Managers Report

General Manager Taylor reported that he signed:

- NoaNet Agreement providing professional services for (5) BEAD projects during the years 2024 & 2025. Not to exceed \$37,500
- Thompson Consulting assists with governmental and regulatory affairs emphasizing Enloe Dam matters. Not to exceed \$75,000
- Okanogan County Economic Alliance – agreement for keeping district informed of potential added load, infrastructure planning, early communication with proposed commercial, industrial, and large load customers, work on BAT team, and notify of potential grant opportunities. Not to exceed \$10,000
- McMillen Inc – Support the district with Enloe Dam safety management not to exceed \$60,960.00
- NoaNet agreement for network coordinated services cost of \$2,550 per month
- North Central Education Services District review and update the electrical education curriculum and materials not to exceed \$2003.00
- State Auditor’s Accountability Audit letter estimated cost of \$46,000 plus travel costs and expenses of \$5,000
- CFC/NCSC Website Account Portfolio and Online Transaction Access Authorization
- Community Action Letter regarding Project Help Clarification of Low-Income Threshold
- Signed the closing paperwork for the Whitestone Substation Property in Loomis

Provided a copy of a letter about the BPA Annual Report and a SnoPud thank you letter for crew help on the windstorms.

b) Heid Appel – Public Records Act Board Training

General Counsel Heidi Appel provided an overview of the Public Records Act to the Board and staff so that they could clearly understand their individual compliance responsibilities. Further, the Public Records Officer is responsible for ensuring that the District responds to any requests in a timely manner and documents the requests on the Records log.

c) Rob Gillespie – December Treasurer Report

Treasurer Rob Gillespie presented an overview of cash transactions in December 2024. The District began December with \$52,873,456.59 in cash and investments, \$5,936,833.43 in cash receipts, and interest of \$220,383.92. Warrants paid \$5,649,080.21 for an ending cash balance and investments of \$53,381,593.73.

d) Ron Gadeberg – Power/Telecom Report

Director of Power Resources and Broadband Ron Gadeberg provided December 2024 wholesale power sales of \$295,034, which were over budget by \$1,402,368. November retail sales were \$5,221,162, above budget by \$536,847. Gadeberg also provided a Capacity Market Purchase Report.

Broadband sales for November were \$300,245.94

Cambian Wireless subscribers	2,928
Wi-Fi Wireless subscribers	154
Fiber Connections	<u>825</u>
Total Connections: Fiber & Wireless	3,907

Gadeberg provided a snowpack report.

9. **Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

10. Commissioner Meetings Attended

Commissioner Asmussen:

- January 7th – Audit Entrance Conference

Commissioner McCloy: No meetings to report.

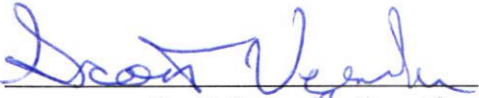
Commissioner Vejraska: No meetings to report.

11. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 27th, 2025.

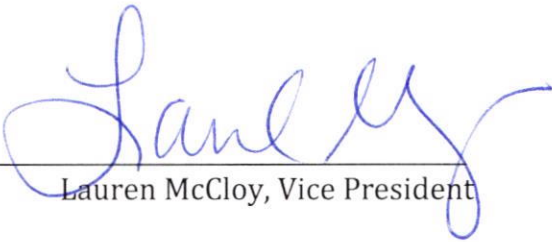
IV. Executive Session

With no further business to discuss, the regular meeting was adjourned at 4:55. A ten-minute executive session began at 5:00 p.m. under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to consult with counsel on current litigation, with no action anticipated.

V. Adjournment at 5:10 p.m.

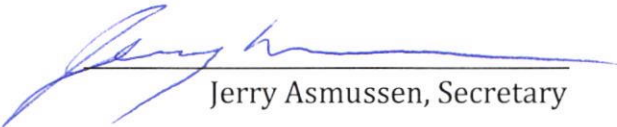


Scott Vejraska, President



Lauren McCloy, Vice President

ATTEST:



Jerry Asmussen, Secretary