

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1  
OF ASOTIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
MEETING MINUTES  
December 23, 2014

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Vice-President Gary Hicks presiding, the Public Utility District No. 1 of Asotin County Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. at the PUD Office at 1500 Scenic Way.

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ROLL CALL: PRESENT      Commissioners: Gary Hicks and Don Nuxoll. Judy Ridge joined by phone.

PUD Staff: General Manager Tim Simpson and Treasurer Bob Sischo.

Members of the public were present.

MINUTES OF MEETING AND VOUCHER APPROVAL:

**MOTION** by Commissioner Don Nuxoll and seconded by Commissioner Judy Ridge to approve the consent agenda approving the minutes of the December 9, 2014 Regular Meeting and payment of the Transaction Vouchers covering vouchers #3338EFT through #3352EFT in the amount of \$28,194.54 and Blanket Transaction Voucher Approval Document covering vouchers #33263 through #33292, and Electronic Transaction Vouchers #14121901, #14122201, #15010801, and #1501082 in the amount of \$257,156.86. The question was called for on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no items presented under Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Watershed Planning

The manager stated that Watershed Planning will be coming to an end in 2015. He stated that the Planning Unit had held out hope since June 2011 that the Department of Ecology would complete the final phase of Watershed Planning in our Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) No. 35 by setting Instream flows on the two major tributaries to the Snake River, the Tucannon River and Asotin Creek. Ecology has cautioned against the Watershed Planning Unit setting instream flows because exempt wells would have to be addressed and would likely be limited or restricted. The Planning Unit has stated that there does not need to be a moratorium or restriction on exempt wells in the watershed. Ecology understands the Planning Unit's position but said that they have no choice due to recent court cases and water law that requires they address and limit exempt wells.

The manager stated that the Planning Unit will receive \$29,000 of the \$40,000 set aside by the legislature in 2014 for instream flow rule making. The funds will be used to update flow records and planning documents but in the end the Planning Unit will not pursue instream flow rule making. With the Planning Unit efforts coming to an end the Board of Commissioners stated that the PUDs' tenure as the Lead Agency and fiscal agent for the Watershed Planning Unit will conclude on or before June 30, 2015.

The Board stated that with the conclusion of the PUDs' tenure as the Lead Agency for Watershed Planning, the Employment Agreement with Watershed Planning Director Brad Johnson will also terminate. The Board stated that they would like to see Brad transition to another fiscal agent before June 30<sup>th</sup> if he desires to do so in order to continue watershed projects. The Board of Commissioners directed the manager to notify Brad of the Board's decision. The manager stated that as the largest water purveyor in the WRIA we will continue to keep an eye on watershed activities especially those initiated by the Department of Ecology. The manager stated that he would notify the Planning Unit upon notification of Brad Johnson regarding the Board's decision.

#### MANAGER'S REPORT

Heights Reservoirs Interior Recoating Project – the manager reported that the contractor was advised by the paint manufacturer to delay testing of the paint to ensure it was fully cured. The manufacturer stated that it was too soon and would need a couple more weeks to cure. The contractor will be returning to the job site on January 5, 2015.

2015 Project Planning Meeting – the manager reported he met with the operations crew to discuss plans for capital improvement projects in 2015. He stated that the largest main replacement will occur on Dustin Loop where 2,400 feet of main will be replaced. Other projects include replacement of steel mains, elimination of dead ends and painting of the Valleyview Reservoir. Recoating of the 2 mg Heights Reservoir will begin and conclude in early 2015. The manager stated that they also discussed the addition of a new crew truck and valve operating machine in addition to the staff changes that will occur within the next two years.

New Customer Service Staff – the manager reported that he has added staff to the customer service area by hiring Clarkston resident Kayla Savage as our new customer service representative. This move included a reorganization of two customer service staff moving Joy Welch into an auditing, finance and record keeping position with Laurie Dorman taking over billing and customer service oversight duties. These moves will allow us to focus on areas that have been neglected and are in need of attention.

Power Planning Council Membership – the manager reported the Power Planning Council (PPC) has approved our PUD as the newest member of this Bonneville consumer-owned preference power customer group. The annual cost of membership is \$750.00.

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#### COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Ridge stated that she would be attending the Power Planning Council meeting in January 2015. Commissioner Ridge stated that she would be attending the Washington PUD Association meetings in early January along with the legislative reception hosted by WPUA.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.