

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1  
OF ASOTIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 24, 2009

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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 via Conference Call.

PUD Staff: General Manager Tim Simpson, Treasurer Bob Sischo and Attorney Scott Broyles.

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 giving approval of the minutes of the March 10, 2009 Regular Meeting and payment of the Transaction Vouchers covering vouchers #1291EFT through #1303EFT and in the amount of \$18,393.65 and Blanket Transaction Voucher Approval Document covering vouchers #26713 through #26745, and Electronic Transaction Voucher #20090317, #20090319 and #20090324 in the amount of \$39,830.64. The question was called for on the motion. Passed 3-0

OLD BUSINESS

Wastewater Condition Assessment and Feasibility Study

The Manager stated that he and Joel Ristau, Asotin County Public Works Director, met with consultants from Keller Associates, Inc. on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> to kickoff the Wastewater Condition Assessment and Feasibility Study. The meeting focused on the gathering of financial and wastewater collection system data from the County. The group discussed the process of evaluating the existing facilities and collection system for the assessment and the process of obtaining and reviewing financial data for the feasibility study. Keller provided a list of information needed from the County to begin the review. Larry Rupp, Keller Associates, scheduled lift station site visits for the next day.

The group also reviewed the proposed project schedule. The goal is to have a draft assessment and feasibility study available for review by mid May. A meeting with the County and the PUD to review findings will follow. A public meeting involving Commissioners and the public will be held at the end of May to review project findings.

### Regional Stormwater Committee

The Manager stated that the Regional Stormwater Committee met on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the PUD office. At the meeting Commissioner Nuxoll volunteered and was elected a co-chair of the committee. The other co-chair is a citizen named Justin Wilson. Mr. Wilson, an engineer working in a local firm, has had experience with stormwater issues on the west side of the State of Washington.

The meeting focused on the development of ordinances for the cities of Clarkston and Asotin and Asotin County. A draft ordinance was presented and the group worked on the language of the ordinance. The primary topic in the ordinance was enforcement of the stormwater program. The group discussed the level of enforcements along with how to properly assess fines for non-compliance. The group agreed that with proper education most citizens would abide by the ordinances and rules. Revisions to the ordinance were presented and the language will be changed and brought back to the committee for further review. The next meeting is scheduled for 4:00 pm, Tuesday, April 21 at the PUD office.

### Regional Aquifer Committee

The Manager stated that the first meeting of the Committee was held Monday, March 23, 2009 at the Lewiston Police Officer Training Center from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Commissioner Nuxoll attended the meeting. The Manager was unable to attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict. The formal name of the group will be the Drinking Water Source Protection Planning Team. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality is overseeing this process. The primary purpose of the committee is to assist the City of Lewiston and the Lewiston Orchards Irrigation District (LOID) to develop source water protection plans. The PUD will be assisting these entities and is interested in the process because we share the same aquifer with the City and LOID. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at the PUD office.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Drinking Water Source Protection Planning Team – Citizen Participation (Alternate)

The Manager stated that he received a call from Kirke White, 1650 Cherry Street, expressing an interest in serving on the Drinking Water Source Protection Planning Team as a citizen representative. The Manager told Mr. White that two citizens had already been appointed to the Committee but that he would put his name forward as an alternate.

**MOTION** by Don Nuxoll, seconded by Judy Ridge to appoint Kirke White as a PUD Citizen Representative alternate on the Drinking Water Source Projection Planning Committee. The question was called for on the motion. Passed 3-0.

### MANAGER'S REPORT

Port of Wilma Water System – The Manager stated that the Port of Wilma continues to produce more water than they are accounting for through their meter reading. PUD staff is working with Port staff to identify the problem and look for a potential leak in the system. Since Bennett has not been operational for several months the manager stated that it is clear that the ongoing problem has been a leak in a service or main line.

Mapping System Assessment – The Manager met with David Stangel from Murray, Smith and Associates (MSA) to assess the status of the current mapping system and devise a plan to get the maps current. MSA recently assisted the PUD in implementation of the hydraulic modeling program and assisting in aligning our AutoCad map program grid with the aerial photography.

The proposal is to bypass AutoCad and develop the remainder of the map system under a Graphical Information System (GIS). GIS is a data driven system where details of each facility, valve, meter, etc. can be stored for viewing. In addition the crew can use a notebook to pull up information about any main line, service line and water system component without having to carry maps. They will also have the capability of updating the maps in the field.

Mr. Stangel's has been directed by the Manager to assess the current system and provide an estimate of the cost of getting the system current while moving it to a GIS platform. Moving to a GIS platform will allow us to link it to our utility billing and customer information system ensuring that all customer data is current. The GIS program was purchased in 2008 and a GPS was scheduled for purchase but will be purchased if or when a project gets underway. If the Board decides to proceed, once we have an idea of the cost of the project, a request for proposals will be sought from interested firms.

Well 7 Standby Generator Training – The Manager stated that the crew received further training on the operation of the standby generator at Well No. 7. The generator will be operated manually ensure all staff are comfortable and understand its proper operation.

Watershed Planning Unit – The Manager stated that the next Planning Unit meeting will be held on Thursday April 9, 2009. The place of the meetings is yet to be determined. He stated that the Phase 4, Year 2 Budget will be the primary topic of discussion. The new budget cycle begins July 1, 2009. Discussions regarding cuts in funding that support the Planning Unit are occurring at Ecology's headquarters this week.

### COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Nuxoll attended the Regional Stormwater Committee meeting on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> and the Source Protection Planning Team meeting on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. He will be attending the Watershed Planning Unit meeting on Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Hicks attended the Washington PUD Association meetings in Olympia on March 18 - 20<sup>th</sup>. A main topic of discussion was Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5840. This legislation requires that twenty-five percent of an electric utilities energy portfolio be from renewable energy projects. The PUD Association is working with legislators to reduce the amount required in portfolios and ease the required deadlines.

Commissioner Hicks stated that Commissioners heard from John Robertson of the Northwest Hydrogen Alliance about proposed Hydrogen Hubs in the Pacific Northwest. This resource would utilize water resources like the Columbia River to capture hydrogen locked in each cubic foot of water. Hydrogen Hubs capture renewable resources, expand energy storage, generate clean, peak power and create renewable fertilizer for agriculture.

Commissioner Hicks stated that PUD Association designees met with the State Auditor's Office (SAO) regarding commissioner compensation. SAO was not aware of that the change to the SAO's Accounting Guidance for PUDs was made just last month. Resolutions adopted by individual PUD's will be honored and commissioner compensation will not be an item under 2008 audits. SAO will review our statute and see if changes are necessary to make it align with other units of local government.

### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.