

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 13, 2020
OF
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF
THURSTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

The regular meeting for October 2020 of the Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County was called to order on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, commencing at 5:00 p.m. Commissioners Russell E. Olsen, Linda Oosterman and Chris Stearns were present for the teleconference meeting hosted via Zoom. The following District employees were also present for the meeting:

- John Weidenfeller, General Manager (GM)
- Julie Parker, Assistant General Manager (AGM)
- Kim Gubbe, Director of Planning and Compliance (DPC)
- Jim Campbell, Director of Field Operations (DFO)
- Ruth Clemens, Administrative Services Manager (ASM)
- TaSeana Tartt, Finance and Customer Service Manager (FCSM)
- Kurin Miller, Clerk to the Board
- Mariah Rodocker, Customer Service Representative

Call to Order:

Commissioner Olsen called the regular meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner Stearns made a motion to approve the agenda; Commissioner Oosterman seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.

Consent Calendar:

Approval of Minutes: September 15, 2020, September 22, 2020

Prequalification of Contractors: None

SMA Contracts: None

Correspondence: None

Voucher Approval:

- 1) Accounts Payables: September 23, 2020, September 30, 2020, October 7, 2020
- 2) Payroll: October 5, 2020

Other: Resolution 20-33, Tanglewilde-Thompson Place Valve Replacement

Approval of Consent Calendar:

Commissioner Oosterman made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented; Commissioner Stearns seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.

Public Comments:

No members of the public were present.

Information or Discussion of Operations/Policy Issues:

1st Reading – Resolution 20-34, Water System Plan, Part A Umbrella

DPC Gubbe gave details on the Water System Plan (WSP), Part A Umbrella. The District received minor comments from the Department of Health (DOH) that entail updating the Policy and Procedures Manual and better defining the District's service area; these changes will be reviewed at the next Commissioner Workshop. A Public Meeting is scheduled on October 19, 2020 to gather public comments on the changes to the WSP.

1st Reading – Resolution 20-35, Water Use Efficiency Goal

DPC Gubbe informed the Board that the proposed Water Use Efficiency (WUE) goal is to reduce and/or maintain an annual average demand for all Group A water systems to no more than 250 gallons per day. The new goal is similar to the District's current goal, but with minor adjustments to encourage customer participation. The DPC discussed systems that currently meet the goal and an action plan for those Group A systems that do not. Once approved, the WUE will be effective for ten years, to follow the updates to the WSP. Commissioner Stearns had questions regarding acquiring new systems and how they can meet this goal. DPC Gubbe addressed the Commissioner's questions.

Discussion – Solar Plan Update

AGM Parker gave an update on staff's progress on researching solar equipment and possible locations to reduce the District's carbon footprint. The AGM spoke about the District's options, contractors and consultants on the project, an inter-agency agreement with the Department of Enterprise Services, and the contract signed to move forward with this project. Commissioner Olsen raised concerns with the cost component of solar. He is interested about what we can do to partner with others and spread out cost. Commissioner Stearns wants us to use any resources possible to move towards solar energy as energy costs increase. GM Weidenfeller informed the Board that a cost-benefit analysis will be conducted; the State will do the study, and there will be no cost incurred to the District for the analysis.

Action/Approval Item(s):

Resolution 20-32, Purchase and Sale Agreement Pattison Water System

Commissioner Olsen wanted clarification that there were no negative comments received from Pattison Water Company customers. GM Weidenfeller discussed the concerns regarding rates and the process the Pattison customers will face early next year as a rate process.

Commissioner Oosterman made a motion to approve Resolution 20-32 as presented; Commissioner Stearns seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.

Authorization to Approve, WRIA 22 & 23 Chehalis Basin Streamflow Restoration Plan

Commissioner Stearns made a motion that the Commissioners of Thurston PUD approve the Chehalis Watershed (WRIA 22/23) Response to the 2018 Streamflow Restoration Law Addendum to the Chehalis Watershed Management Plan, for submission as the final Plan

Addendum to Ecology: Commissioner Oosterman seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.

Commissioner Signatures/Break:

There were no physical documents to sign.

Presentations:

GM Weidenfeller reported that he attended the Washington Association of Counties meeting on October 12 with Commissioner Olsen to address the need for CARES Act funding for water utilities. The District recently received a contract from Lewis County to list the District as a sub-recipient of CARES Act grant funding. The GM gave an update on his work with other counties in trying to obtain CARES Act funding. Commissioner Olsen added that an economic recovery group will convene for allocating a second round of CARES Act money. The Commissioner spoke about conveying the need of utilities and special utility district to have access to funds.

DPC Gubbe gave an update on the Thurston County Consolidation Project. DPC Gubbe will meet with the Consolidation Project Advisory Committee (CPAC) about new names for the consolidated water system, but GM Weidenfeller will have final approval. Currently, the DPC is working on permits and hiring another engineer for stormwater and landscaping, as well as the plans for designing the reservoir, demolishing the pumphouse, and working with DOH and Thurston County regarding appropriate permits. DPC Gubbe also spoke about chlorination of the Meadows water system; plans for this project will be submitted at the end of the week, and she plans to meet with customers next month to go over chlorination to discuss why it is needed for the water system. Commissioner Stearns asked if technology for the treatment was selected. DPC Gubbe addressed this question. Lastly, DPC Gubbe reported that the District will be moving forward with Tanglewilde Part B plan. There will be a first reading of the contract for this work at the next Commission Meeting.

ASM Clemens noted the Governor extended the Moratorium on evictions and utility shut-offs until December 31, 2020.

Commissioner Topics, Discussions and Reports:

Commissioner Oosterman had questions regarding Emergency Management, specifically the Great Shakeout. ASM Clemens explained the District will be participating in a modified version of the Great Shakeout. The Commissioner and ASM Clemens discussed the details for this procedure. Commissioner Oosterman also discussed the Hoh Tribe and their satellite connections; she had questions about how this will affect the District. The Commissioners discussed this subject in greater detail.

Commissioner Stearns spoke about meetings he has recently attended. He touched on details regarding WRIA's in Washington State. He also mentioned his concern for the recent Department of Ecology interest in redefining the idea of municipal water rights and the implications it would have on the PUD.

Commissioner Olsen addressed his work with GM Weidenfeller on obtaining CARES Act funding earlier in the meeting.

An Executive Session was listed on the agenda. However, Commissioner Olsen declined to hold the Executive Session, and the Board voted to adjourn.

Adjournment: Commissioner Oosterman made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Stearns seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Assignments:

- 1) Find Press Release from the Governor's speech on October 13, 2020 regarding the economic recovery group. Engage this group on this topic.



Russell E. Olsen, Commissioner and President

Attest:


Chris Stearns, Commissioner and Secretary