

Public Utility District No. 1 of Klickitat County
Board of Commissioners Meeting
Tuesday, September 26, 2023
2:00pm

CALL TO ORDER: President Randy Knowles called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. as advertised.

PRESENT: Randy L. Knowles - President, Dan G. Gunkel - Vice-President and Douglas B. Miller - Secretary

STAFF PRESENT: Jim Smith - General Manager, Gwyn Miller - Assistant GM, Cara Smith - Accounting Clerk, Sharon Blodgett - W/WW Coordinator, Mike DeMott - Director of Finance and Power Management, Anita Clever - Energy Services Specialist, Kevin Ricks - Renewable Energy Assets Manager, Brandy Myers - Customer and Accounting Services Manager, Brandon Johnson - Engineering Manager, Mike Nixon - Operations Manager, Mark Garner - Engineering Supervisor and Luann Mata - Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.

Via teleconference:

Isabelle Carroll - Accounting Clerk, Andrew Jaekel - Buyer, Cynthia Bruce - Accountant, Patrick Carroll - Contractor and April Greenlaw - Operations Administrative Assistant.

GUESTS: Cheri Harris (via teleconference)

PLEDGE: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

MINUTES: MOTION was made by Commissioner Miller to approve the September 12, 2023 meeting minutes as amended with the two changes noted in red for the Hathaway Water and Sewer connection transfer motion made under the Assistant General Manager's section. Motion carried.

CLAIMS & PAYROLL: Presented by Cara Smith. Vouchers were audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and all expense reimbursement claims presented were certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 and were recorded on a listing made available to the board this 26th day of September, 2023.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Miller to approve accounts payable vouchers and payroll in the amounts as listed:

- Accounts Payable Voucher Nos. 217300 through 217431 in the total amount of \$1,170,147.23; Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) transaction Nos. 512 through 516 and Wire and Automated Clearing House (ACH) Nos. 8801849 through 8801854 in the total amount of \$2,454,432.33 for the period ending September 26, 2023; and
- Payroll ACH Direct Deposit Payroll transactions 212587 through 212679 in the total amount of \$261,540.91 for the payroll period ending September 10, 2023.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Cheri Harris addressed the board to discuss her severe sensitivity to electromagnetic frequencies and her concern of health reactions to the installation of an advanced meter. She asked that the board review the letter she

submitted. Her request is to obtain a medical exemption and retain her analog meter. Commissioner Knowles will contact Ms. Harris after the meeting and further discussion of shielding options and staff's findings.

REPORTS:

Operations August Update - Mike Nixon presented the Operations report for August. We continue to meet our 2023 reliability goal. Customer related crew work continues to be slow. As a result, this has been a maintenance-focused year. A log truck caused a recent outage by snagging a communication line. Kemp West is still in Trout Lake. Dale Stelter split his time in August between mulching and trimming. Klickitat and Yakima counties remain at a level 2 IFPL, while rest of the state is now at a level 1. We are hopeful that with this week's rain, the IFPL will be reduced or removed. August's safety training covered sabotage reporting for substations.

Engineering August Update - Brandon Johnson and Mark Garner presented the August report. Brandon provided an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project update. Meter deployment kicked off in Goldendale city proper on September 11. Allegiant has installed just under 1700 meters. When complete, they will move to the outskirts of Pine Forest and then move toward Hoctor Road and Stringstreet Road. The focus is on 120/240v services. Businesses and larger service meter exchanges are being planned. Complications encountered as we start this process are being addressed. Overall, the installation process is going pretty smooth, demonstrated by how fast they are moving. Some customer-side issues, like hot sockets, have been identified, and electricians are readily available to address these concerns. The goal is to ensure residences do not experience extended power outages. This project is providing a significant safety benefit as we touch every meter in our system and have the potential to identify customer-side meter base hazards that the customer may have been unaware of. The few items that have been found to date, our electrical contractor has responded to that same day. Commissioner Knowles asked staff to explain what would happen if the electrician could not fix an issue right away. The process was reviewed. Commissioner Knowles requested clarification on why the opt-out program only applies to the 200-amp services. 400-amp services are being installed to address larger consumer demands, which impact the electric system and all customers. We have also reached out to Sturgeon Electric to obtain a quote to install gateways and routers for the project. By mid-October, Allegiant technicians will move to the west end of the county to continue meter deployment. Landis+Gyr continues to complete site surveys. There are two techs on site; each tech has 60-70 locations to check from the Klickitat Canyon to Rock Creek. We expect this to be complete next week.

Jim Brokaw brought back information to address a question posed at the September 12 commission meeting regarding radio frequency (RF) shielding review. Brandon Johnson stated that staff has researched window RF blocking curtains, RF blocking paint, and metal shielding on the outside of the house. These are all options a customer could install or complete on their own. We are unsure how proven any of these options are, but their statements promote reduction in RF. Jim Brokaw did obtain inside and outside readings from our equipment as requested by the board. Outside at the meter, the reading was 1.3 mW/m² and the reading was 0.3 mW/m² as the meter was pinged from the office. IEEE and ICNIRP standards limit exposure to 4500 mW/m² for a duration of 6 minutes. We expect communications for less than 90 seconds total per day. Commissioner Gunkel asked if there is a difference between RF and EMF frequency. Jim responded that RF is the 900 MHz in the case of AMI and EMF is traditionally the 60 Hz electric service frequency. The next question was addressing claims of "dirty power" created by electronic meters. An electronic meter has a switched mode power supply, as do battery chargers, cell phone and laptop chargers and other electronic appliances. An electronic meter is about 8 watts and the above devices range from 45 to 300 watts. Jim said that he does not see there is any issue with this claim. In response to Ms. Harris' question, Commissioner Knowles asked staff if there was an issue with leaving the analog meter. The answer was, yes. We will not get the information we are trying to obtain for rate design by

leaving the analog meter in place. Gwyn Miller also discussed ADA accommodations, which require access to services, but do not dictate business practices.

Mark Garner provided an update on customer installations. There are four customers scheduled over the next 3 weeks. Engineers are working on a ten span 3-phase project to re-feed Oak Flat Road from the Bickleton Highway side in preparation for the Fenton Road Substation. The customer work normally has a fall rush as the weather begins to turn. The customer work just did not pick up this year. Crews completed work on six H-structures on the Glenwood transmission and Goldendale worked on Klickitat cross-country transmission. Sturgeon Electric is back on the property. They will begin the Dot Road transmission today and this will take five weeks to complete. Phillip McMillen is mapping transmission access points for all of our transmission lines. Phillip is utilizing the Washington State LiDAR mapping data to assist with design and then he is physically verifying these access points as well. During the RNG outage this week, we are scheduled to complete work on the White Creek to Rock Creek transmission line to replace a pole burnt during the Newell Road fire. Staff will complete work on the Harvest line as well. The Dooley to Rock Creek fiber will be repaired later this month. Crews will replace guy strain insulators, install galloping dampeners, and bird perch mitigation on our transmission. Sturgeon Electric will assist with some of this work as well. The bird laser deterrent is working well at MA Collins substation. We are budgeting to install these in Biogas II and Harvest substations next year.

COMMISSIONER RANDY KNOWLES - Commissioner Knowles did not have a report.

COMMISSIONER DAN GUNKEL - Commissioner Gunkel did not have a report.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS MILLER - Commissioner Miller did not have a report.

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER -

- **Health Fair** - Gwyn Miller announced that the annual Klickitat Valley Health wellness blood draw would be held at the office Thursday, September 28 from 7am to 9am.

GENERAL MANAGER - Jim Smith did not have any additional report.

AGENDA ITEMS:

- PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS** - **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Miller to approve the addition of Selway Construction Group and agree to add them to the small works roster for the 2023 period. Motion carried.
- RESOLUTION NO. 1842 LOW-INCOME ELDERLY RATE (SENIOR DISCOUNT) 2023/2024** - Brandy Myers presented the 2022/2023 program statistics and reviewed the program impacts including a request for additional funding for the program in April. The 2023/2024 program resolution as presented is based upon the prior year discount total of \$75,000. Options were reviewed.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Miller to adopt Resolution 1842, thereby authorizing the continuation of the District's Low-Income Elderly Rate (Senior Discount) program, with increases to the income guidelines to align with the 2023 200% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) as presented. Discounts effective on bills issued December 2023 through May 2024, or until funding limit is reached. Motion carried.

- LOW-INCOME COMMUNITY SOLAR PROJECT DISCUSSION** - Anita Clever and Mike DeMott reviewed information regarding a program being established by Washington State University as stipulated by legislation 2SHB

1814 in 2022. There is a funding opportunity available to pay for infrastructure costs to design and build, among other options, low-income community solar projects. We could receive up to \$667,000 in PUT tax credits with a KPUD additional investment of approximately \$37,000. The commissioners asked if the funds were guaranteed if we made a project proposal and it was accepted by WSU. Yes, funds are guaranteed as long as the build design and costs do not deviate from the approved pre-certification. Staff requested board support and direction to pursue non-binding proposals to firm up costs to complete the application process. We have the land, transformer costs and power infrastructure required, but we need quotes to complete project costs for evaluation and subsequent application to WSU. After additional discussion, commissioners provided direction to staff to obtain non-binding proposals to allow staff to evaluate if submitting a project proposal is viable for the return on investment. Staff was also prompted to reach out to others to evaluate property value potential to be assigned to this project. Thoughts were discussed on how this project could work to provide value to our existing Low Income Elderly discount program. Commissioner Gunkel asked what it would take to maximize the program benefits. Jim stated that very roughly, it would take 60 of these projects to fund our CETA requirements. That investment alone would cost around 36 million dollars, while the program maximum reimbursement is \$667,000. Commissioner Gunkel stated that this would indicate that the state needs to provide more funds towards these programs. Staff will bring back information before submitting any proposals to WSU.

Anita stated that she would attend an upcoming meeting held by the Klickitat County Commissioners as the PUD property parcel we are considering for this proposal is included in the referenced townships to be discussed. The county is proposing limiting any large-scale solar projects to 1-acre maximum.

CCA Auction allowances and EV fuel standards need to be evaluated for potential inclusion in the CETA liability offset recognition as well.

D. CARBON FREE POWER SOURCE, SMALL MODULAR NUCLEAR REACTOR INVESTIGATION - Jim Smith provided information on the initial funding for the Energy Northwest (ENW) and Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (UAMPS) projects.

Jim also attended a meeting with BPA regarding their long-term resource planning and he is intending on continuing to engage in this process to ensure their models are realistic and they have input from customers.

E. EXECUTIVE SESSION: REVIEW PERFORMANCE OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PER RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g) - President Knowles called for an Executive Session at 4:26 p.m. per RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g) noting the session would last until 5:00 p.m. The session ended at 5:01 p.m. No action was taken.

Adjourned - There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

/S/
Randy L. Knowles, President

/S/
Dan G. Gunkel, Vice President

/S/
Douglas B. Miller, Secretary
Date Approved: October 10, 2023

/s/
Luann Mata, Executive Assistant