

Public Utility District No. 1 of Klickitat County
Board of Commissioners Meeting
Tuesday, April 26, 2022
2:00pm

CALL TO ORDER: President Douglas B. Miller called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. as advertised.

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

STAFF PRESENT: Jim Smith - General Manager, Alex Casimiro - LFG Support Assistant, Mike Nixon - Operations Manager, Jeff Thayer - Materials Manager, Brandon Johnson - Engineering Supervisor, Kevin Ricks - Renewable Energy Assets Manager, Mike DeMott - Director of Finance and Power Management, and Luann Mata - Executive Assistant

Via teleconference: Brandon Walter - Water/Wastewater Superintendent and Courtney Collins - Engineering Support Assistant

GUESTS: None

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

MINUTES: **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Knowles to approve the April 12, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

CLAIMS & PAYROLL: Presented by Alex Casimiro. 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 April, 2022.

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

- Accounts Payable Voucher Nos. 213113 through 213247 in the total amount of \$2,166,487.54; Wire and Automated Clearing House (ACH) transaction Nos. 8801625 through 8801631, along with Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) transaction Nos. 335 through 340 in the total amount of \$1,658,649.11 for the period ending April 26, 2022; and
- Payroll Warrant No. 213112 and ACH Direct Deposit Payroll transactions 209174 through 209262 in the total amount of \$258,364.08 for the payroll period ending April 10, 2022.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

REPORTS:

Water/Wastewater Report - Russ Patton and Jim Smith presented the March/April water wastewater updates. The vegetation covering the elevated sewer line in Lyle was removed and the subsequent inspections determination was that there is no degradation. Staff is evaluating options to bury the line. We currently have a 10-foot easement, and burying may require obtaining additional easements.

Glenwood corrosion control project is finished. Water right leases are filled with Department of Ecology. There were two applications submitted.

The Department of Health has increased the Roosevelt approved system connects from 95 to 117 and Rimrock's system connections were increased from 38 to 52

approved connects. The solar developer that utilized water from Roosevelt for dust abatement has submitted a water draw request. The amount of water requested is substantial and could potentially tax the system. Staff is evaluating options, such as withdrawing from the emergency well. The main concern is stressing the system, but if we could separate the water use, we may be able to acquire additional funds to increase the system's cash position. Jim also discussed the potential for a rate adjustment of the fill rate fees. He will bring back an evaluation to the next meeting.

Operations Report - Mike Nixon and Jeff Thayer presented the report for March. He stated that the Average System Availability Index (ASAI) goal of 99.971% is still not being met we are at 99.450% through March.

We coordinated with Bonneville Power on an outage affecting Spearfish/Lyle substations. Crews made repairs on the Lyle transmission switch. Currently the crews are working on a mix of customer work and maintenance. Goldendale has 4 customers ready and 21 pending; White Salmon has 6 ready as of today and 27 pending. We define pending as customers that have yet to complete all of the requirements to move their projects to scheduling with the crew.

Kemp West currently has three crews on the property and one additional crew is coming. These crews each trimmed approximately one mile per crew per week during April and have averaged about 2 miles a week year to date. Work has been moving quickly due to working close to roads; off-road work is beginning now so this may slow their progress a bit. They have already trimmed 9 miles in extreme fire areas and there are 129 miles total to trim in these areas. The hard bid was to trim 64 miles per year; they have completed 38 miles so far. The superintendents are happy with the contractors' progress and quality to date. Our crew trimmed 41 trees and removed 75 in March, with 103 hours put on the mulcher year to date. Commissioner Miller asked if we evaluate weed control requirements after mulching; the answer is that we have these areas sprayed the year after we complete our work.

The safety meeting focused on heat stress training in March. Magnum Power will begin work on Echo Glen in May.

Jeff Thayer reviewed inventory status and the supply chain update. The inventory level is currently \$2.8 million. Past practice is about \$1.8 million in material on the property. We should be set for this year's construction season with all materials except pad-mounted transformers. We will have received 83 new or refurbished units by the end of May. The next shipment of 90 is due in December and we expect we will run out of them and form a queue this summer or fall. Jeff is continuing to try to move up manufacturing production slots.

We have pushed back the White Salmon office reopening to June as we discovered asbestos flooring that must be removed. We issued a purchase order for the floor removal today. There is a plan in place for staff to move to the upper area of the office and still function during this process.

Engineering Report - Brandon Johnson presented the report for March.

There are two issues affecting the commissioning schedule for the MA Collins substation. First, when we received the control house April 11, wiring and panel placement were not completed per specification defined by the bid. We also received the incorrect CT's. Staff remedied this by pulling CT's from Biogas II to get us by and not delay commissioning. Brandon is working with both vendors to remedy these issues. We are ordering the replacement CT for Biogas II now. With all change orders in addition to moving the portable back to Goldendale, we are approximately 3% over budget.

We are completing the Goldendale transformer bushing replacement. This will be completed by switching without an outage. The E.E. Clouse bid opening is May 5. The transformer bid delivery dates will determine the final schedule.

The metershop found a hot connector and replaced it during the Lyle outage. We have replaced the White Creek NiCad batteries with lead acid. Staff has also completed the 18-month WECC battery testing. During the RNG maintenance outage, the Biogas II and Roosevelt transformers were tested. Both of those transformers tested good. We are awaiting the dissolved gas analysis report, but we do not expect any surprises. The Klickitat substation retaining wall and ground leveling project is also complete.

Electrical Consultants Inc. is working on an electric vehicle study to determine load impacts on our long-range plan. Brandon explained the power required for one Ford F-150 fast charger is 20 kW, which would significantly increase a current homeowner's electrical demand, which typically would be 5-7 kW peak. This could then force significant upgrades to our existing electrical system. He also said that according to state websites, there have been more electric vehicles licensed in the county so far this year than were forecasted to be licensed in the entire year. We will schedule a power capacity strategic plan workshop discussing using Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) and other resources as tools for future system management. Brandon also provided a few examples of information we have obtained from this AMI trial. Commissioner Knowles asked staff to bring back costs, benefits and rate structure adjustments for board analysis. He also asked staff to bring back an EV study for review.

Lastly, there will be a night outage on the Bingen Substation May 6. The outage is expected to last 3 hours to install the regulators on the transformer. Titan electric is on the property working on the direct bury wire replacement on the east end of the county.

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

COMMISSIONER RANDY KNOWLES - Commissioner Knowles attended the Mile Marker 28 meeting last week.

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

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER - Gwyn Miller was absent due to attending the NISC Users Group meeting in Hood River.

GENERAL MANAGER - The complete report can be found at:

http://www.klickitatpud.com/topicalMenu/commissioners/GM_Reports.aspx

In addition to the written report, Jim Smith presented the following information:

- Customer Meetings - We will meet with Ponderosa customers on May 9 and Rimrock on May 12. All of the meetings to date have gone well. Bickleton customers suggested a few options they would like to see regarding paying off debt.
- Dallesport Wastewater - Jim and Commissioner Miller are still meeting with Klickitat County staff to evaluate options.
- Water/Wastewater Rate Hearing - We would like to schedule the rate hearing and adoption of the water use efficiency goals on May 24 at 3:00 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS:

- A. SET PUBLIC RATE HEARING DATE AND TIME FOR THE WATER/WASTEWATER SYSTEMS - **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Gunkel to set a public Water/Wastewater Rate hearing to include acceptance of Water Use Efficiency Goals and fill rate for Tuesday May 24 at 3:00 p.m. in the KPOD Board Room. Motion carried.

