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WA-18

Saying Goodbye

Celebrating 30 Years of Shared Success at Klickitat PUD



Commissioner Randy Knowles

As I have from time to time, I am borrowing the back page of Ruralite. This time, not to discuss an important issue, but rather to say goodbye.

I have decided to officially retire as your PUD commissioner and did not file for reelection. It is said the secret to success is not knowing when to engage but when to disengage, and 30 years seems like just enough.

Thank you to my constituents for supporting the PUD over these many years. It has been an amazing, challenging, rewarding, frightening and also humbling experience. We have achieved so much together during the past 30 years: hydro projects, landfill gas projects, wind projects and transmission projects—all creating positive cash flow, keeping rates lower than they would otherwise be.

Your support has allowed us to do all these things. Amid all the rancor and division we currently suffer across the country, you have proven to be the exception—a group of people I was happy to serve. I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to serve the past many years. Thank you. So much to say in so little space!

I want to thank all the employees at the PUD. Through the years, I have proudly worn the moniker of the dreamer on the board. Your efforts have made those dreams reality. Without your efforts through many trying times, they would not have come to be.

I want to thank those who have served and are currently serving on the board. I am especially thankful to Commissioner Dan Gunkel. Commissioner Gunkel preceded me on the board by a couple of years. He will remain as I leave, providing continuity and valuable experience.

I can't leave without thanking my first general manager, Brian Skeahan. We fought some mighty wars together. You all benefited, whether you know it or not.

Current General Manager Jim Smith was promoted to manager during a trying time. He grew under fire, becoming—in my estimation—one of the best utility managers in the state.

I don't have space to thank all those I wish to, but a special thank you to Lu. Thanks for taking care of me.

There are many daunting challenges ahead but many opportunities. In the past, when folks would say, "You can't do that. You're just little old Klickitat PUD," my feeling and favorite response has always been, "Well, you are half right. You can't do that, but we can." We are Klickitat PUD, and yes, we can!