

**PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF BENTON COUNTY  
SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING  
INFORMATION ON PROPOSED PROSSER FACILITY**

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Date: October 11, 2005

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Prosser Office Auditorium, 607 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Prosser, Washington

Present: Commissioners Hall, Bertsch, and Sanders, General Manager Sanders, Assistant General Manager/Director of Operations Long, Director of Engineering Hunter, Manager of Communications and Governmental Relations Miller, Director of Retail Services Revell, Manager – Prosser Branch Mantle, Supervisor – Support Services Splattstoesser, Administrative Assistant Hurst

Guest: Jim Dillman, Dillman Luvaas Architects

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The Special Commission Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on October 11, 2005, by Commission President Jeff Hall. The meeting was called in accordance with RCW 42.30.080.

General Manager introduced the Benton PUD staff in attendance and thanked the public for their interest in tonight's meeting. The special meeting of the Commission was called to provide the public an opportunity to listen to the PUD's plans concerning the proposed Prosser facility and to accept public input and answer questions. General Manager specifically encouraged the public to provide staff and commission with their comments concerning the proposed community auditorium which is proposed as part of the overall Prosser facility plan.

Assistant General Manager/Director of Operations gave a brief history on site and building analysis leading up to tonight's proposed plan.

Mr. Dillman, the District's architect for the proposed plan, stated that the plan includes a projected 33% growth over the next 25 years in the Prosser area. An overview was given of the facility plans, including administrative offices, pole yard and line crew facilities. The size and usage design of the proposed community auditorium was reviewed in detail.

At the conclusion of Mr. Dillman's presentation, Assistant General Manager asked for public input and the following was received:

- Drive thru window comments were generally supportive, with a brief discussion on the need for the window in the future due to advances in new alternate payment technologies. The needs of the Prosser area customers and their methods for payment availability in the future concluded the window may continue to be advantageous. Mr. Dillman noted the drive thru window cost was approximately \$80,000. General Manager noted that a review of drive thru usage could be done.
- One member of the public noted that the Commission should consider leasing, rather than selling, the additional land not being utilized.
- Noise due to the proximity of the proposed facility and the airport was briefly discussed.


- Proposed auditorium comments included the great benefit it could provide to the Prosser community. Public comments noted that the community struggles with meeting room availability when more than 45 people are anticipated to attend, it would provide for positive economic development, i.e., small conventions could be brought to the area, and the benefits to educator programs, including Evergreen Community College.
- The pre-convene room of the auditorium was discussed and was noted by one individual as an area where informational materials could be provided to the public.

Commissioner Lori Sanders discussed the changes in the square footage from the previous proposed plans and the amount of meeting space available by head count. Mr. Dillman discussed the building codes and noted that the current plan as proposed would hold 238 people, without tables in the room. Mr. Dillman stated that the cost of the proposed auditorium as currently displayed was approximately \$357,000. Mr. Dillman stated the cost of the proposed Prosser facility as presented at tonight's meeting was \$2,387,000.


Assistant General Manager thanked everyone for their comments and interest in the proposed Plan.

President Hall announced that public comments were welcome on the proposed facility and stated that comments could also be provided through Benton PUD's web site at [www.bentonpud.org](http://www.bentonpud.org) under the "Talk To Us" button.

Hearing no objection, President Hall adjourned the Commission Meeting at 6:50 p.m.

  
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Jeffrey D. Hall, President

Attest:

  
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Lori Kays-Sanders, Secretary