MINUTES

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF BENTON COUNTY
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

Date: September 22, 2026
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: 2721 West 10th Avenue, Kennewick, Washington

Present: Commissioner Jeff Hall, President
Commissioner Lori Kays-Sanders, Vice-President
Commissioner Mike Massey, Secretary
Chief Financial Officer Jon Meyer
Chief Operating Officer Chris Folta
Director of IT & Broadband Services Jennifer Holbrook
Director of Human Resources & Communications Karen Dunlap
Director of Conservation & Distributed Energy Resources Chris Johnson
Director of Customer Service and Treasury Keith Mercer
Director of Engineering Evan Edwards
Records Program Administrator II Nykki Drake
General Counsel Allyson Dahlhauser

Benton PUD employees present during all or a portion of the meeting, either in person or virtually: Annette Cobb, Manager of Customer Service; Blake Scherer, Manager of Power Supply & Transmission Service; Dax Berven, Senior Engineer; Duane Crum, Manager of IT Infrastructure; Duane Szendre, Superintendent of Operations; Jodi Henderson, Manager of Government & Community Relations; Katie Grandgeorge, Financial Analyst III; Kent Zirker, Manager of Accounting; Levi Lanphear, Procurement Administrator; Michelle Ochweri, Manager of Procurement; Michelle Ness, Supervisor of Distribution Design; Jessie Grad, Superintendent of Transmission & Distribution; Robert Frost, Supervisor of Energy Programs; Shannon Sensibaugh, Administrative Assistant, II; Shanna Everson, Distribution Designer; Tyson Brown, Procurement Specialist II; Zach Underhill, Distribution Designer; Jody George, Supervisor of Human Resources; Kevin Grow, Power & Energy Programs Analyst III; Rosa Mitchell, Senior Engineer; Angela Richman, Distribution Design Tech. II; Jason Nielson; Applications Analyst III.

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The Commission and those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Review

Approved as presented.

Public Comment

None.

Consent Agenda

MOTION: Commissioner Sanders moved to approve the Consent Agenda items "a" through "e". Commissioner Hall seconded and upon vote, the Commission unanimously approved the following:

a. Regular Commission Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2026
b. Travel Report dated September 22, 2026
c. Vouchers (report dated September 22, 2026) audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing made available to the Commission and approved as follows for payment:
   Accounts Payable: Automated Clearing House (DD) Payments: 116800-116830 and 116989-117018 in the amount of $1,544,271.01
   Checks & Customer Refund Payments (CHK): 92769-93028 in the amount of $422,644.81;
   Electronic Fund Transfer (WIRE) Payments: 7696-7707 in the amount of $540,296.09;
   Residential Conservation Rebates: Credits on Customer Accounts in the amount $250.00;
   Payroll: Direct Deposit – 09/10/2026: 116831-116988 in the amount $509,740.29;
   Grand total - $3,017,202.20
d. Jobs Report (Work Orders up to $100,000)
e. Resolution No. 2738 – Surplus of Transformers, Meters, and Equipment – Surplus of Equipment

Management Report

Karen Dunlap

1. **80th Anniversary Customer Event**
   Karen Dunlap, Director of Human Resources & Communications, discussed with the Commission of the upcoming 80th Anniversary Customer Event on October 1st.

Chief Operating Officer - Chris Folta

1. **Chevron Outage Update**
   Evan Edwards, Director of Engineering, updated the Commission on scheduled maintenance at the Chevron Substation and BPA's work near the Hedges Substation. During a large industrial customer's annual maintenance outage, the District upgraded SCADA communications and replaced the main breaker serving the customer. BPA replaced two transmission structures on the Franklin-to-Hedges line just outside the Hedges Substation. The District used the recently constructed Spaw-Phillips 115 kV line to keep other customers in the area energized throughout the work.

2. **Inland Power Site Visit**
   Chief Operating Officer Chris Folta informed the Commission that staff will visit Inland later this week to learn how Inland uses NISC in the field to electronically process trouble orders. Benton PUD currently processes trouble orders on paper and is exploring opportunities to transition to an electronic process using the existing mobile NISC software application.
3. **APPA RP3 application submission**
   Chief Operating Officer Chris Folta informed the Commission that the District submitted its application for the American Public Power Association's Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) designation earlier this month. Recipients are expected to be announced in April 2027. The District earned the program's highest designation, Diamond level, in each of its three previous application cycles, beginning in 2018. Each designation is valid for three years.

Chief Financial Officer - Jon Meyer

1. **New Employee Introduction**
   Chief Financial Officer Jon Meyer introduced new Power Management employee Kevin Grow.
2. **Rating Agency Update**
   Chief Financial Officer Jon Meyer shared with the Commission Benton PUD's credit ratings were affirmed at AA- by S&P and Fitch and Aa3 by Moody's.
3. **Bond Issue Update**
   Chief Financial Officer Jon Meyer provided the Commission with an update on the District's 2026 bond issuance process.
4. **Federal Register Notice BP-27**
   Chief Financial Officer Jon Meyer discussed with the Commission BPA's BP-27 expedited rate case, which is estimated to result in an immediate impact of approximately $4.3 million per year in 2027–2028 and approximately $3 million annually beyond FY2028 for Benton PUD.
5. **Safe Hatchery Extension**
   Chief Financial Officer Jon Meyer provided the Commission with an update on BPA's Select Area Fisheries Enhancement (SAFE) Program, which has operated for more than 30 years. BPA previously provided approximately $1.6 million annually to the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife for the program. BPA announced plans to discontinue funding but has since agreed to provide one additional year of funding, allowing ODFW additional time to pursue alternative funding sources.
6. **Financial Report**
   Chief Financial Officer Jon Meyer provided the Commission with a financial report for August, 2026.

Business Agenda

State of the System

Chief Operating Officer Chris Folta presented the Fall 2026 State of the System update. The presentation focused on accountability, reliability, and asset maintenance, including joint-use compliance, quality assurance, wildfire mitigation, facility and infrared inspections, vegetation management, pole testing, transmission maintenance, and power transformer maintenance. Also reviewed was ongoing maintenance at Nine Canyon, including breaker inspections, annual oil sampling, and potential modernization of controls and SCADA communications infrastructure as part of the project life extension.

Resolution No. 2737 – 2026 Five Year Plan of Service

Dax Berven, Senior Engineer, presented the Commission with the 2026 Five-Year Plan of Service for 2027–2031. The plan focuses on system reliability, contingency improvements, and replacement of aging infrastructure. The proposed five-year transmission and distribution capital plan totals approximately $96.7 million and includes distribution upgrades, underground cable replacement, and transmission reliability projects throughout the District's service area.

MOTION: Commissioner Massey moved to approve Resolution No. 2737 adopting the 2026 Five-Year Plan (2027-2031) as presented. Commissioner Sanders seconded, and upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Future Planning

Commissioner Sanders will be absent from the next Commission Meeting on October 13th.

Meeting Reports

Commission Hall and Commissioner Massey attended the WPUDA meetings last week in Olympia.

Adjournment

Hearing no objection, President Hall adjourned the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

Jeff Hall

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Jeff Hall, President

ATTEST:

_____

Mike Massey, Secretary

Signature Certificate

Envelope Ref:755f423f0f8699550fd2de9ad7b26dba2150513f

Author:	Nykki Drake	Creation Date:	13 Oct 2026, 09:11:17, PDT	Completion Date:	13 Oct 2026, 12:39:12, PDT

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Name: Commission Minutes - 2026-09-22

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Document Total Pages: 4



Name: Commission Voucher Report 2026-10-13

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Document Total Pages: 24



Name: Resolution No. 2739 - Surplus of Equipment

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Document Total Pages: 2



Name: Resolution No. 2740 - Surplus Vehicles

Type:

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Document Total Pages: 2



Name: Resolution No. 2741 - 2026 Prequalification B - Contractors Roster

Type:

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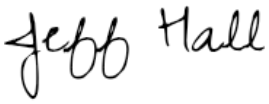
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Document Signed By:

Name:	Mike Massey
Email:	mmassey@bentonpud.org
Signer ID:	VW84ECQC19...
IP:	50.37.190.245
Location:	KENNEWICK, WA (US)
Date:	13 Oct 2026, 12:39:12, PDT
Consent:	eSignature Consent Accepted
Security Level:	Email



Name:	Jeff Hall
Email:	jhall@bentonpud.org
Signer ID:	IO4D7JJI19...
IP:	64.184.178.115
Location:	KENNEWICK, WA (US)
Date:	13 Oct 2026, 10:36:01, PDT
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Signed Document(s)	Link emailed to mmassey@bentonpud.org
Signed Document(s)	Link emailed to draked@bentonpud.org

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