General Manager informed the Commission that Commissioner Lori Sanders would be a few minutes late in joining today’s commission meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

**Treasurer’s Report**
Manager of Risk Management & Treasury reviewed the June 2021 treasurer’s report. The Commission accepted the June Treasurer’s Report. The Counterparty and Sector reports can be found on the district’s website.
Consent Agenda
Motion by Jeff Hall, seconded by Barry Bush to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:


c) Approving Vouchers 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. As of this date, the Commission does approve the following for payment: Accounts Payable: Automated Clearing House (DD) payments 86105-86132 86290-86337 in the total amount of $1,330,086.21, Checks & Customer Refund payments (CHK) 81814-81922 in the total amount of $466,673.28, Electronic Fund Transfer (WIRE) payments 5813-5836 in the total amount of $8,193,895.09; Residential Conservation Rebates: Credits on Customer Accounts in the total amount of $110.00; Payroll, Direct Deposit 06/24/2021 86133-86289 in the total amount of $393,981.25 for a grand total of $10,384,745.83. Voided Checks in the total amount of $242.19 were also included in the report.

d) Adopting Resolution No. 2572 declaring certain transformers, reclosers, switch cabinets, capacitors and fuses surplus to District needs according to the laws of the State of Washington, Title 54, RCW 54.16.180, and authorizing the General Manager, on behalf of the District, to dispose of same.

e) Authorizing the General Manager on behalf of the District to sign a three year contract with Water Street Public Affairs, LLC, Contract #21-12-03, for consulting and lobbying services for a not-to-exceed amount of $78,000.00 per year for a total of $270,000.00 with an expiration date of August 31, 2024 with an option to extend an additional two years for a total of five years.


g) Reviewing Quarterly Broadband Service Orders Report to Commission.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Lori Sanders joined the commission meeting at 9:06 a.m.

Report from Management

General Manager:
1. General Manager led a discussion on the recent heat wave and the media messages that were sent out from the District and other area utilities. As the heat wave developed, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) transmission system operators informed the District and other area utilities to be prepared to shift or drop load if needed. General Manager provided detail on the transmission contingency issues BPA experiences when loads get above a certain level in the Tri-Cities and emphasized that if blackouts were initiated, they would be targeted to certain substations and would not be widespread. A discussion was held on projects BPA has planned in the area in order to mitigate contingency limitations and the associated risk of blackouts but that the major projects are not expected to be completed until 2025 or later. In the interim Tri-Cities utilities and their customers will have to live with BPA transmission contingency risks. A discussion was held with commissioners regarding the difference between rolling blackouts associated with a shortage of regional power generation and power disruptions that are required due to more local power line and equipment limitations.
2. General Manager notified Commissioners that the Washington State Department of Commerce and the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission were preparing to release their joint summary report of the Resource Adequacy meeting held on May 11th. The report is required to be submitted to the Governor and Legislature within 60 days of the meeting. A copy of the summary report will be forwarded to the Commissioners once it is released. General Manager provided an update on a recent presentation he provided on Resource Adequacy to a meeting of the Pasco/Kennewick Rotary. Representative Brad Klippert participated in the Rotary meeting and requested a follow up meeting with the General Manager.

3. General Manager reviewed highlighted portions of a letter sent to President Joe Biden from members of Congress representing Pacific Northwest states, identifying the urgent need for prompt negotiation of the Columbia River Treaty.

4. General Manager reported that the Washington state Pollution Control Hearing Board denied a recent appeal from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers who argued that Washington’s Department of Ecology overstepped its authority in deciding to regulate federal dam structures and not just their effluents (e.g., oil leakages, etc.). This decision leaves the door wide open for the State of Washington to require unattainable river temperature limits for reservoirs within its state borders. It is unclear whether the Corps will appeal this ruling in federal court. This issue likely represents the next major legal challenge for the federal dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

5. General Manager reviewed a letter Kurt Miller, Executive Director of Northwest RiverPartners, sent to the organizers of the Columbia Basin Collaborative (CBC) expressing concerns with the structure and current makeup of the CBC Integration/Recommendations Group which is comprised mostly of members representing organizations publicly proclaiming dam breaching as their preferred option for improving salmon runs. General Manager displayed a draft letter developed by Northwest RiverPartners which staff recommends sending to the CBC organizers. Commissioners concurred with staff’s recommendation to have them sign on to the letter.

6. General Manager reviewed highlighted portions of an email George Caan, Executive Director of the Washington PUD Association, sent out regarding frustrations with the process leading up to the Governor’s extension to the moratorium on utility disconnections.

**Director of Power Management/Manager of Conservation & Renewable Energy Programs:**

1. Director gave a power supply update.

2. Director reviewed the hedging reports that were included in the commission packet. General Manager reviewed takeaways from the recent heat event. Commissioner Lori Sanders discussed a recent article published in the Wall Street Journal.

3. Manager provided an update on CETA requirements related to low-income customers.

**Director of Executive Administration:**

1. Director reviewed public meeting requirements as of June 30, 2021. The Governor has not yet rescinded Proclamation 20-28.15 which requires that all public meetings be held remotely with the option of also having in-person attendance. As of June 30, 2021, public agencies opting to host in-person public meetings no longer have restrictions on capacity or
physical distancing requirements, masks are required for unvaccinated attendees however there is no verification requirement.

General Manager recommended the District’s commission meetings continue over MS Teams virtual format until the end of August, with the first in-person commission meeting taking place on September 14, 2021. Director reviewed staff’s plans to continue offering MS Teams if the district’s commission meetings return to in-person prior to Proclamation 20-28.15 being rescinded. Commissioners concurred with staff’s recommendation.

2. Director reviewed staff’s proposed dates for commission work sessions. The three work sessions will include presentations on Broadband, Rate Design Alternatives, and Demand Response and Commissioners concurred with staff’s plans and recommended dates.

Director of Operations:
1. Director gave an update on a recent outage that occurred over the weekend.
2. An update was provided on the recent break-in that occurred in Operations. An arrest has been made and investigations continue to take place on advertisements placed that may include stolen District property.

Director of IT & Broadband Services/ Manager of Enterprise Optimization & Project Management:
1. Director gave a cyber security update and informed the Commission that agencies are seeing increases to their insurance premiums and decreases in coverage related to cyber security. No changes have been made to the District’s current insurance coverages. A cyber security assessment is scheduled to take place and staff will return to a future commission meeting with a presentation on the results.
2. Manager gave a presentation on the AMI project close-out.

At 10:35 a.m., Commissioner Lori Sanders announced the commission meeting would recess for 10 minutes.

At 10:35 a.m., Commissioner Lori Sanders announced the commission meeting would reconvene into regular open public session.

Senior Director of Finance and Customer Services:
1. Senior Director reviewed Accounts Reviewable reports that were included in the commission packet. Senior Director also provided a COVID-19 customer assistance program summary.
2. Senior Director informed the Commission the Governor has extended his utility moratorium on customer disconnects through September 30, 2021 but did state in his press release that this is his last extension of the moratorium. Senior Director gave a presentation on staff’s recommendation post-moratorium on utility disconnections and reviewed options to assist customers post-moratorium. A discussion was held on the options and staff will return to a future commission meeting with a Resolution for commission consideration. Staff also informed the Commission that Community Action Connections (CAC) has been informed of some additional funding they have been provided that will assist past-due customers.
Business Agenda


Director of Power Management recommended the Commission approve staff’s recommendations to set two public meetings on July 27, 2021 at 8:15 a.m. and August 24, 2021 at 8:15 a.m. Both public meetings would be held virtually over MS Teams and would be held prior to the 9:00 a.m. regularly scheduled commission meetings. Director reviewed CETA public participation requirements in the Clean Energy Transportation Act process.

Motion by Barry Bush, seconded by Jeff Hall setting a Public Meeting of the Benton PUD Commission for July 27, 2021 at 8:15 a.m. to be held via MS Teams at 1 469-998-5874 Conference ID: 152 468 949# for the purpose of gathering input for the District’s Clean Energy Implementation Plan.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion by Barry Bush, seconded by Jeff Hall setting a Public Meeting of the Benton PUD Commission for August 24, 2021 at 8:15 a.m. to be held via MS Teams at 1 469-998-5874 Conference ID: 470 402 792# for the purpose of gathering input for the District’s Clean Energy Implementation Plan
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Bid Package #21-21-39 – 15kV TriPlex Cable, Reject all Bids
Assistant General Manager recommended the Commission reject all bids received for Bid Package #21-21-39, 15kV Triplex Cable based on the bid submitted exceeding the engineers estimate by 15%. Assistant General Manager held a discussion on the two bids received and reviewed staff’s plan to re-bid the 15kV TriPlex Cable.

Motion by Jeff Hall, seconded by Barry Bush to reject all bids received for Bid Package #21-21-39, 15kV Triplex Cable based on the bid submitted exceeded the engineers estimate by 15%.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Future Planning
Commissioner Jeff Hall informed the Commissioners he will attend the July WPUDA Association Meetings in-person.

Meeting Reports
Commissioner Lori Sanders reported on her in-person attendance at the APPA National Conference.
Executive Session
At 11:35 a.m., Commissioner Lori Sanders announced that the commission meeting would go into executive session for 15 minutes with Legal Counsel to discuss Collective Bargaining and potential litigation.

At 11:50 a.m., Commissioner Lori Sanders reconvened the commission meeting into regular open session.

Senior Director of Finance and Customer Services recommended the Commission approve a refund of $11,378.75 to Total Office Concepts, Inc. who was over billed due a metering error back to the date they started service on February 22, 2017.

Motion by Barry Bush, seconded by Jeff Hall approving the refund of $11,378.75 to Total Office Concepts, Inc. who was over billed due a metering error back to the date they started service on February 22, 2017.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Hearing no objection, Commission President Lori Sanders adjourned the Commission Meeting at 11:51 a.m.

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Lori Sanders, President

ATTEST:
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Jeff Hall, Secretary