

MINUTES

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

Date: September 9, 2025

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
General Manager Rick Dunn
Senior Director of Finance & Executive Administration Jon Meyer
Assistant General Manager/Sr. Director Engineering & Operations Steve Hunter
Director of Power Management Chris Johnson
Director of IT & Broadband Services Chris Folta
Director of Customer Service and Treasury Keith Mercer
Records Program Administrator II Nykki Drake
Administrative Assistant II Shannon Sensibaugh
General Counsel Allyson Dahlhauser

Benton PUD employees present during all or a portion of the meeting, either in person or virtually: Blake Scherer, Senior Engineer Power Management; Duane Crum, Manager of IT Infrastructure; Duane Szendre, Superintendent of Operations; Eric Dahl, Communications Specialist II; Evan Edwards, Manager of System Engineering; Jenny Sparks, Manager of Customer Engagement; Jodi Henderson, Manager of Communications & Government Relations; Katie Grandgeorge, Financial Analyst III; Karen Dunlap, Manager of Human Resources; Michelle Ochweri, Manager of Procurement; Paul Holgate, Cyber Security Engineer III; Robert Inman, Superintendent of Transportation & Distribution; Robert Frost, Supervisor of Energy Programs; Shanna Everson, Distribution Designer; Tyson Brown, Procurement Specialist I.

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The Commission and those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Review

There were no changes to the agenda.

Public Comment

None.

Treasurer's Report

Keith Mercer, Director of Customer Service & Treasury Operation, reviewed the August 2025 Treasurer's Report with the Commission as finalized on September 3, 2025.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Regular Commission Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2025
- b. Travel Report dated September 9, 2025
- c. Vouchers (report dated September 9, 2025) 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: 110500-110554 and 110709-110742 in the amount of \$1,459,991.13.
Checks & Customer Refund Payments (CHK): 90652-90739 in the amount of \$60,964.21;
Electronic Fund Transfer (WIRE) Payments: 7366-7386 in the amount of \$12,197,129.00;
Residential Conservation Rebates: Credits on Customer Accounts in the amount \$560.00;
Payroll: Direct Deposit – 8/28/2025: 110555-110708 in the amount \$467,548.57;
Voided checks (August 2025) in the amount of \$1,869.65;
Grand total - \$14,186,192.91
- d. Agri-Northwest Quillen OH – Work Order 747458
- e. Quit Claim Deed – Maple Meadows Subdivision
- f. Contract #10-46-07 – Energy Northwest – APEL Co-Location – CO#11
- g. Resolution No. 2707- Vista Bay 2 Metalclad – Surplus of Equipment

Management Report

Customer Service/Treasury:

1. Prosser Senior Day – Manager Jenny Sparks reported changes to the Senior Day event this year. This year Benton PUD is not holding the Senior Day event at the Prosser office due to low attendance in the past. Benton PUD will instead hand out senior information at Prosser Memorial Health Hospital Lunch and Learn event on October 9th 12pm-2pm. The Senior Day event will still be held at the Kennewick office on October 15th from 9am-1pm.
2. EIL Update – Director Keith Mercer reported that development of the new Transitory Electricity Intensive Load (TEIL) rates, which includes updates to the Customer Service Policies, has been postponed until Q1 of 2026. The delay will allow staff to review how other utilities are addressing potential efforts by new customers to avoid the higher TEIL rates by seeking lower General Service rates, as well as provide time to implement the recently proposed 2026 general rate increase.

Finance/Executive Administration:

1. Community Forum – Senior Director Jon Meyer reported an update to Community forums this fall. Prosser date and location has been confirmed and will be held at the Benton PUD Prosser Auditorium on October 20th at 5:30pm. No changes to the Kennewick or Benton City Community Forum dates and times. The Community Forum flyer will be mailed to customers in the next few weeks. Commissioners discussed and confirmed who would attend which forums.
2. Legislative Transmission Discussion – Manager Jodi Henderson reported one of the legislative transmission meetings has been rescheduled from September 26th to September 15th. Commissioners discussed and confirmed who would attend the meeting on September 15th.

General Manager:

1. Regional Energy Symposium, October 9th – General Manager Rick Dunn reported that a Regional Energy Symposium is being held on October 9th in Portland, Oregon to engage policy makers across the Northwest to better understand the growing risk of electricity and natural gas energy shortfalls. Manager Dunn will send the registration link for the symposium to Commissioners.
2. Sunheaven #3 Substation Project Update – General Manager Rick Dunn provided an update on the Sunheaven #3 project including the current state of contract negotiations and overall project schedule.
3. BPA Residential Exchange Program Update – General Manager Rick Dunn reported the Public Power Council has asked him to participate in a meeting with Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs) next week in Portland, OR to hear initial proposals and principles relative to the Residential Exchange Program (REP) negotiations. Manager Dunn stated BPA payments to IOUs in the next three year-rate period under REP will be about \$280 million per year which represents 14% of BPA's annual revenue requirements utilities like Benton PUD pay through rates, so the negotiations are critically important to the District's power costs in the Post 2028 period. Manager Dunn also stated that Senior Director Jon Meyer has joined the Residential Exchange Program Technical Group headed by the Public Power Council that will be fully engaged in BPA's workshops to adopt updated Records of Decisions for the program for the Provider of Choice contract (post-2028).

Business Agenda**Resolution No. 2706 – Amendments to Interlocal Agreement with NoaNet and the Admission of New Member – Contract #25-46-10**

Director Chris Folta presented Resolution No. 2706 to adopt the amended Contract #25-46-10 Interlocal Agreement with NoaNet and the admission of a new member.

MOTION: Commissioner Sanders moved to approve Resolution No. 2706 Adopting the amended Contract #25-46-10 Interlocal Agreement with NoaNet and the admission of a new member as presented. Commissioner Massey seconded, and upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Future Planning

Commissioner Sanders will be attending the Energy Northwest meeting on September 10th.
Commissioner Massey will be absent from the Commission Meeting on October 14th.

Adjournment

Hearing no objection, President Hall adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

DocuSigned by:

69B2EED7319E4CC...
Jeff Hall, President

ATTEST:
Signed by:

BDBCB6BF293EB4FE...
Mike Massey, Secretary