

MINUTES

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

Date: May 12, 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
General Manager Rick Dunn
Assistant General Manager/Sr. Director Engineering & Operations Steve Hunter
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
Supervisor of Executive Administration/Clerk of the Board Cami McKenzie
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; Duane Crum, Manager of IT Infrastructure; Duane Szendre, Superintendent of Operations; Katie Grandgeorge, Financial Analyst III; Kent Zirker, Manager of Accounting; Michelle Ness, Supervisor of Distribution Design; Michelle Ochweri, Manager of Procurement; Robert Inman, Superintendent of Transmission & Distribution; Robert Frost, Supervisor of Energy Programs; Shanna Everson, Distribution Designer; Shannon Sensibaugh, Administrative Assistant, II; Tyson Brown, Procurement Specialist II; Zach Underhill, Distribution Designer; Shawn Harper, Superintendent of Support Services; Jessie Grad, Assistant Superintendent of Transmission & Distribution.

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The Commission and those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Review

No changes.

Public Hearing #1 – 2026 Resource Plan – Introduction

Blake Scherer, Manager of Power Supply & Transmission Service, presented the 2026 Resource Plan introduction. Mr. Scherer explained that RCW Chapter 19.280 requires electric utilities to prepare resource plans every two years. The plan evaluates projected loads and identifies the resources needed to meet those loads as part of Benton PUD’s long-term strategy to provide reliable, low-cost power.

For Public Hearing #1, Manager Scherer provided an introductory presentation addressing RCW definitions and requirements, the difference between a Resource Plan and an Integrated Resource Plan, the proposed draft outline, the development schedule, public hearing timeline, final approval process, and public input options.

Testimony

As there was no public testimony, the public hearing was closed.

Setting Public Hearing #2 – 2026 Resource Plan

Blake Scherer, Manager of Power Supply & Transmission Service, reviewed the proposed schedule for Public Hearing #2 and requested the Commission approve setting the public hearing.

MOTION: Commissioner Sanders moved to set a Public Hearing for the purpose of public input on the 2026 Resource Plan on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., to be held at the District’s Administration Office located at 2721 West 10th Avenue, Kennewick, Washington, as well as via conference call at 1-323-553-2644, conference ID 359 861 969#, and directing the General Manager to publish the notice of the public hearing date, time and location. Commissioner Massey seconded, and upon vote, the motion carried.

Public Comment

None.

Treasurer’s Report

Keith Mercer, Director of Customer Service & Treasury Operations, reviewed the April, 2026 Treasurer’s Report with the Commission as finalized on May 4, 2026.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Regular Commission Meeting Minutes of April 28, 2026

- b. Vouchers (report dated May 12, 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: 114634-114724 in the amount of \$2,534,754.10.
Checks & Customer Refund Payments (CHK): 92067-92114 in the amount of \$139,079.63;
Electronic Fund Transfer (WIRE) Payments: 7585-7594 in the amount of \$5,943,152.71;
Residential Conservation Rebates: Credits on Customer Accounts in the amount \$980.00;
Payroll: Direct Deposit – 4/23/2026: 114481-114633 in the amount \$465,401.75;
Grand total - \$9,083,368.19
- c. Jobs Report (Work Orders up to \$100,000) – Dec. 2025 - Jan. 2026
d. Work Order #731667 – Metaline Avenue Reconductor
e. Work Order #763354 – Cold Creek Reconductor

Management Report

General Manager – Rick Dunn

1. PPC & PNUCC Highlights

General Manager Dunn reported on recent PPC and PNUCC meeting highlights, including:

- PPC’s featured guest was Nick Elliott, Senior Advisor, National Energy Dominance Council.
- BPA Administrator search update: two candidates have advanced as finalists; discussion included desired qualifications and Markets+ perspectives.
- Residential Exchange Program (REP) update.
- Western power markets update, including the successful startup of the CAISO Extended-Day Ahead Market (EDAM) with PacifiCorp as a participant.
- Columbia River System Operations (CRSO) litigation: briefing schedule continues through June 26 but no significant new developments reported.
- Robin Furrer was named Acting BPA Administrator.
- Northwest Power and Conservation Council update: Council representatives are traveling throughout the region soliciting feedback on proposed changes to the Fish & Wildlife program. The Council is also beginning to solicit input on the Ninth Power Plan. Benton PUD has commented on the Fish & Wildlife plan and GM provided feedback to Jennifer Light with the Council who was a featured speaker at the most recent PNUCC meeting. GM recommended the Council acknowledge the land intensive nature of wind and solar farms and perform sensitivity analysis to determine how much land would be required to meet Power Plan recommendations. And rather than assume all the land represented in the “technical potential” footprint is developed, run sensitivity analysis to put a cap on the development footprint, and acknowledge that citizens and wildlife in rural areas will be bearing the vast majority of the burden of industrial scale energy generation to the primary benefit of citizens living in populated areas in western Washington and Oregon. And when you add the need for high-voltage transmission lines, it’s unreasonable to think development friction, especially in states like Idaho, Montana and Wyoming without carbon-free electricity mandates, is going to diminish over time. Rather than wait for the

inevitable pushback to the massive scale of wind and solar development being contemplated, why not proactively rebalance the land use burden and engage western Washington and Oregon as host locations for future electricity generation plants. The Council should not be fueling the rural-urban-divide.

- Transmission discussions included:
 - Western Transmission Consortium (WTC) efforts to coordinate utility participation and transmission line development planning, with a goal to identify funding opportunities among utilities who would be the beneficiaries of new lines.
 - The Consortium presented a transmission map of proposed new lines connected to WestTEC planning efforts which are not being discussed publicly. BPA is not a WTC participant, but all new lines will involve BPA since they own 75% of the existing Northwest grid.
- BPA Resource Acquisition Team discussion included:
 - BPA staff were receptive to GM feedback at the PPC meeting regarding the need for more transparency related to BPA's physical and financial hedging strategy, and how this strategy is changing in response to the shutting down of dependable generating plants and the emergence of massive data center loads in Oregon. GM pointed out that BPA's trading floor operations have been successful at meeting demand for electricity at a reasonable cost, even though BPA has significant seasonal shortfalls under low water conditions; but times are changing, and it is looking more like BPA will need to acquire new resources in the near future.

2. Speaking Engagements

- Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) Presentation – May 28
- Washington Association of Truckers Meeting June 1

The Commission briefly recessed, convening at 10:27 a.m.

Management Report - Continued

- Centralia generating station – DOE 90-day order extended in March.

Business Agenda

2026 Q1 Performance Measure Review

Chief Financial Officer Jon Meyer presented the Performance Measurement 1st Quarter 2026 Report and stated that 17 of 17 performance measures were rated green with positive quarterly performance and 17 of 17 were rated green with positive outlooks.

The following performance measures were highlighted by staff: Telephone Service Level (green rating), Rates (green rating), Collections (green rating), Electric Reliability Indices (green rating), and Electric System Outages (green rating).

Future Planning

Nuclear Energy Outreach

Commissioner Sanders commented on nuclear energy promotion efforts observed in Utah through billboard campaigns, and suggested consideration of more visible and proactive messaging related to nuclear energy. General Manager Dunn responded that River Partners is already engaged in similar outreach efforts and that he will continue related discussions through the Tri-Cities Utility Group, including promoting the EmPOWERed program.

WPUDA President Visit

Commissioner Hall reported that WPUDA requested a visit with the Commission and proposed the October 13 regular meeting date. The date appeared acceptable, and the Clerk was asked to finalize arrangements.

Meeting Reports

WPUDA Annual Meeting

All three Commissioners and the General Manager attended the WPUDA annual meeting.

Dan Newhouse Symposium

Commissioner Sanders reported on her attendance at the Dan Newhouse Symposium and discussed concerns expressed by farmers regarding declining net farm income and increasing energy, fuel, and labor costs. She said that protection of the Snake River Dams and the hydroelectric system was a key message emphasized during the symposium.

Meeting with AgriNorthwest

General Manager Dunn reported that orchardists are facing significant labor-related challenges. He noted that he had a meeting scheduled with AgriNorthwest later in the week to further discuss those concerns and related issues.

Kennewick School District Leadership Council

Commissioner Sanders reported she was invited to participate in the Kennewick School District Leadership Council to assist in reviewing the district's strategic plan.

Adjournment

Hearing no objection, President Hall adjourned the meeting at 11:17 a.m.



Jeff Hall, President

ATTEST:



Mike Massey, Secretary