

**Skamania County Public Utility District #1**  
**Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners**

January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Curt Esch at 9:00 a.m. at the PUD office in Carson, WA. The following persons were present: Commissioner Curt Esch; Commissioner Dennis Gale attended via conference call; Commissioner Clyde Leach; Manager, Bob Wittenberg; Auditor, Chris Iobst; Attorney, Ken Woodrich.

The Minutes of the January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Meeting were approved as corrected by Commissioner Leach's **motion**. Commissioner Gale **seconded**, and the motion was **approved unanimously**.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Underwood Water Connection** – Board and Staff discussed a request from an Underwood resident to sell back a water connection to the District that has been idle for over forty years. The Board noted the need for a formal policy regarding idle connections, outlining conditions under which the District might buy back water connections. The Board agreed to consider purchasing the connection at the original purchased price.
- **Packwood Project** – Wittenberg recounted a conversation with BPA Account Representative Kevin Farleigh about how the District's 1% share of the Packwood Project will be taken to load. BPA is requesting a decision by March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **Hazard Mitigation Plan** – Esch asked if the District had provided the information for the Hazard Mitigation Plan to Skamania County. Wittenberg noted that further work was needed to address the backfeed challenges on the District's east end. Woodrich noted the plan may support the District's efforts to have BPA resolve those backfeed issues.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **Washington PUD Association** – The Board discussed WAPUDA's proposed voting reform and concern over the mixed messages being conveyed to legislators by different PUDs. The Board decided to have Gale remain the voting delegate, Esch will remain alternate and Leach will be the second alternate.
- **2009 Third Quarter Financials** – Iobst presented financials for both the Carson and Underwood water systems. He noted that water sales increased 8% in Carson and 15% in Underwood compared to the same period in 2008.

**MANAGER’S REPORT**

- **BPA- Snowpack Concerns** - Wittenberg noted that annual snowpack numbers are down significantly for areas that drain into the BPA system.
- **Water Rights Application Fees** - Wittenberg noted a bill proposal to raise the Department of Ecology’s water right application fee from \$50 to \$500. He reported that no water rights applications were processed in 2009 due to staff limitations at the Department of Ecology, and the increased fee would help facilitate a larger staff.
- **Underwood Substation** - Wittenberg reported that moving the fence 10’ at the Underwood Substation will require a permit between \$900 - \$1,600 with the County Planning Department and a full SEPA study.
- **Hood Road Project** - Wittenberg noted the need to replace a water line and underground cable on Hood Road in Underwood. Contractors are being solicited to submit bids for trenching.

**AUDITOR’S REPORT**

- **Bad Debt Write-Off** – Senior Accounting Clerk, Lisa Allen, presented a list of customers with bad debt to write off and send to collections totaling \$725.81. Commissioner Leach made a **motion** to approve the bad debt write-off. Commissioner Gale **seconded**, and the motion was **carried unanimously**.
- **PCS Post-Conversion Items** – Iobst reported that almost all outstanding post-conversion items related to new PCS billing system had been resolved. He credited Senior Accounting Clerk Debbie Hinzman’s persistent efforts and work with PCS in resolving the conversion issues.

**VOUCHER APPROVAL**

The following vouchers were approved for payment by a **motion** made by Commissioner Leach.

<b>Voucher</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Electric System	44412-44478	\$ 245,709.07
Carson Water	5552-5559	\$ 21,674.65
Underwood Water	3296-3299	\$ 11,625.10

Commissioner Esch stepped down and **seconded**. The motion was **carried 2-0**, Commissioner Gale abstaining due to not being present to review the vouchers.

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The Meeting **adjourned** at 11:55 p.m.

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**Curt C. Esch, President**

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**Clyde D. Leach, Secretary**

The next regular scheduled Board of Commissioner's Meeting will be:  
**Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 at 9:00 a.m..**