

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

February 16, 2016

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; Commissioner Liz Green; General Manager Brent Bischoff; Auditor Jasen McEathron; Project Coordinator Melanie Sharp; and Attorney Ken Woodrich.

**MINUTES:**

- Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to approve the February 1, 2016 Regular Meeting minutes. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- None.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Resolution No. 2534 – Surplus Timber** – Manager Bischoff presented Resolution No. 2534 declaring the timber on parcel #03081800050100 as surplus. After discussion, Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 2534 authorizing the harvest and sale of surplus timber on the Carson reservoir site (parcel #03081800050100) with an estimated value of \$20,000 less the cost of harvesting. **Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Resolution No. 2535 – General Manager Salary-** Manager Bischoff presented Resolution No. 2535 regarding the General Manager’s salary. Commissioner Green read into the record a statement regarding the performance evaluation of Manager Bischoff. After discussion, Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 2535 increasing the General Manager’s salary 1.0% from \$144,282 annually to \$145,725 annually effective as of February 1, 2016. **Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Doctrine of Necessity** – Commissioner Esch requested that Attorney Woodrich provide backup documentation for the information previously reported by Attorney Woodrich regarding the Doctrine of Necessity and the Separation of Powers. Attorney Woodrich requested clarification on what specific events where the Doctrine of Necessity was used. The Commissioners further discussed whether the Doctrine of Necessity was ever used.

Commissioner Esch made a motion to hire an outside attorney to review the PRA lawsuit; Sherry Esch vs. PUD No. 1 of Skamania County and Clyde Leach.

**ATTORNEY’S REPORT:**

The Board entered into Executive Session at 9:40 a.m. to discuss litigation per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for a duration of 30 minutes. Commissioner Green, Commissioner Gale, Manager Bischoff, Auditor McEathron, Attorney Woodrich, and Attorney Ramsey Ramerman via phone were in attendance. Commissioner Esch

recused himself from the Executive Session. Executive Session was extended 45 minutes. Executive Session ended at 10:55 a.m. There was no action taken in Executive Session and staff were instructed to proceed as discussed.

Commissioner Esch asked to have his previous motion withdrawn regarding hiring an outside attorney to review the PRA lawsuit; Sherry Esch vs. PUD No. 1 of Skamania County and Clyde Leach. Commissioner Gale and Commissioner Green approved the request and the motion was withdrawn.

The Board excused Attorney Woodrich at 10:56 a.m.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **General Engineering Services PSC – MSA Ratification-** Manager Bischoff presented for ratification a professional services contract with Murray Smith and Associates, Inc. to provide general engineering services to the PUD for the Underwood and Carson water systems. After discussion, Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to ratify the contract with Murray Smith and Associates not to exceed \$3,000. **Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Transformer Acceptance Testing – Specialty Engineering Ratification-** Manager Bischoff presented for ratification a scope of work with Specialty Engineering, Inc. to provide acceptance testing for the new power transformer at the Underwood Substation. After discussion, Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to ratify the scope of work with Specialty Engineering in an amount not to exceed \$5,000. **Motion passed unanimously.**

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- **DWSRF Loan – New Carson Reservoir Project** - Auditor McEathron and Manager Bischoff discussed the potential rate impacts and ability to complete additional projects if the DWSRF loan was accepted. After discussion, staff recommended that the PUD decline the loan. The Commissioners agreed and directed staff to decline the loan.
- **Commissioner PERS Enrollment** – Auditor McEathron discussed the steps that are needed to allow PUD Commissioners to enroll in the Public Employees’ Retirement System (PERS). The Commissioners are going to wait until they receive more information at the March WPUDA meeting before discussing the issue in more detail.
- **Commissioner Healthcare** – The Commissioners and staff discussed the previous actions regarding providing healthcare benefits to retiring Commissioners.

Public Comment: Diane Green commented on whether the PUD should provide continuing healthcare benefits to retiring Commissioners.

### **MANAGER’S REPORT:**

Manager Bischoff reported on the following items:

- January 2016 outage report
- New cannabis customer
- Underwood substation rebuild project

- New Carson reservoir geotechnical work
- Duggan Falls water system feasibility study
- Shepherd pump station project
- Underwood agricultural water demand

**AUDITOR’S REPORT:**

- **Bad Debts** - Auditor McEathron presented bad debts in the amount of \$1,385.85. After discussion, Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to approve the bad debts in the amount of \$1,385.85. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**COMMISSIONER’S REPORT:**

- Commissioner Gale noted that WPUDA was requesting information from PUDs regarding what type of flex hours are being allowed. Manager Bischoff reported that the tree trimming crew and mechanic are currently on a four day schedule.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 12:20 p.m. to receive and evaluate complaints or charges brought against a public officer or employee per RCW 42.30.110(1)(f) for a duration of 10 minutes. Commissioner Green, Commissioner Gale, Commissioner Esch and Manager Bischoff were in attendance. Executive Session was extended 5 minutes. Executive Session ended at 12:35. There was no action taken in Executive Session.

**CALENDAR:**

- WPAG Meeting February 19, 2016
- WPUDA Meetings February 24-26, 2016
- PPC Meeting March 3, 2016

**VOUCHER APPROVAL:**

Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Green **seconded** to approve the vouchers audited and certified as required by RCW 42.24.080 and RCW 42.24.090. **Motion passed unanimously.**

<b>Voucher</b>	<b>Numbers</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Electric	<b>53061-53116</b>	<b>\$701,550.39</b>
Carson Water	<b>6616-6621</b>	<b>\$4,291.58</b>
Underwood Water	<b>3867-3869</b>	<b>\$101.04</b>

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- None.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

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**Curt Esch, President**

**Liz Green, Secretary**

The next regular scheduled Board of Commissioners' Meeting will be  
**Monday, March 7, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.**