

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

June 16, 2014

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Clyde Leach at 9:00 a.m. at the PUD office in Carson, WA. The following persons were present: Commissioner Clyde Leach; Commissioner Curt Esch; Commissioner Dennis Gale; General Manager Brent Bischoff; Auditor Jasen McEathron; Project Coordinator Melanie Sharp; and Attorney Ken Woodrich.

MINUTES:

- Commissioner Gale made a **motion** and Commissioner Esch **seconded** to approve the June 2, 2014 Regular Meeting minutes. **Motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Sherry Esch commented on her lawsuit against the PUD and Commissioner Leach regarding public records requests and submitted two letters into public record.
- Liz Green commented on the Wittenberg and Esch lawsuits. She also promoted the Mill-A July 4th Picnic.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **NW RiverPartners – Kay Gabriel** – Kay Gabriel, of NW River Partners, gave a presentation describing the work and mission of NWRP. Commissioner Esch made a motion and Commissioner Gale seconded to approve payment to NW RiverPartners for the 2014 pro-rated membership dues. **Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Substation Design PSC – IEC**- Manager Bischoff presented a proposal from IEC to perform electrical engineering services for the Underwood substation design. Joshua Doering, of IEC Corporation, discussed his firm’s capabilities and the project approach. After discussion, Commissioner Esch made a **motion** and Commissioner Gale **seconded** to authorize Manager Bischoff to sign the PSC contract with IEC for substation detailed design and construction bid package preparation and support at a fixed price in the amount of \$200,250 and construction support on a time and materials basis. **Motion passed with two votes for and one abstention.**
- **Work Order Training PSC – KW Consulting**- Auditor McEathron presented a proposal from KW Consulting to perform work order training. After discussion, Commissioner Esch made a **motion** and Commissioner Gale **seconded** to authorize Manager Bischoff to sign the contract with KW Consulting for work order training in the amount of \$6,000 plus expenses. **Motion passed unanimously.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **Legal Costs** - Auditor McEathron reported on the PUD’s legal costs associated with the Sherry Esch public records act lawsuit. Commissioner Leach made a request for the Board authorize additional

expense for his legal defense since the previously authorized \$15,000 is nearly expended. Attorney Woodrich noted that a former employee is requesting payment for legal representation in association with the lawsuit. Attorney Woodrich also responded to some points of Sherry Esch's earlier public comment.

OLD BUSINESS:

- None.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

The Board entered into Executive Session at 11:10 a.m. to discuss Litigation and Employee Performance per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)&(g) for a duration of 50 minutes. Commissioner Leach, Commissioner Gale, Commissioner Esch, Auditor McEathron, Manager Bischoff, and Attorney Woodrich were in attendance. Executive session ended at 12:00 p.m. The employee performance matter was not accomplished during this executive session due to time constraint.

Meeting reconvened at 12:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS CONTINUED:

Legal Costs cont. – The Commissioners discussed Commissioner Leach's legal defense funds. Commissioner Gale made a motion and Commissioner Esch seconded to authorize an additional \$10,000 for Commissioner Leach's legal defense. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Bob Wittenberg informed the Board that he received a subpoena as part of the Esch lawsuit and requested that the PUD provide legal council to address the subpoena. Commissioner Gale made a motion and Commissioner Leach stepped down and seconded a motion to authorize, under RCW 54.16.097, expense up to \$5,000 to provide Bob Wittenberg legal council as he responds to the subpoena. **Motion passed with two votes for and one abstention.**

There was a 5 minute break at 12:25 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 12:30 p.m.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- **Water Engineering** – Manager Bischoff reported that the PUD will be moving water system engineering services from Wallis Engineering to Murray, Smith & Associates.
- **Carson Reservoir Warranty Work** – Manager Bischoff reported that when the Carson reservoir was drained for warranty repair work, additional paint defects were identified that will require repair. The repairs will be completed in September when customer demand is lower.
- **Outage Report** - Manager Bischoff provided the outage report for May 2014.
- **WRIA 29A** – Manager Bischoff reported that the WRIA 29A group is meeting monthly. The committee is currently addressing action items in the watershed plan to formulate the detailed implementation plan.

- **New Carson Reservoir** – Manager Bischoff discussed efforts to acquire property by lease for the new Carson reservoir.

AUDITOR’S REPORT:

- **Health & Welfare Costs** - Auditor McEathron discussed increasing health and welfare costs. Commissioner Gale agreed to represent the Board on the Insurance Committee.
- **Bad Debts** - Auditor McEathron presented bad debts in the amount of \$6,140.43. Commissioner Esch made a **motion** and Commissioner Gale **seconded** to approve Bad Debts of \$6,140.43. **Motion passed unanimously.**

COMMISSONER’S REPORT:

- Commissioner Gale reported on his attendance at the June PURMS meetings.

CALENDAR:

- The WPAG Meeting is scheduled for June 19, 2014
- The WPUA Meetings are scheduled for June 25-27, 2014
- The PPC Meeting is scheduled for July 3, 2014

VOUCHER APPROVAL:

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

Voucher	Number	Amount
Electric System	50628-50684	\$245,751.68
Carson Water	6310-6315	\$2,809.35
Underwood Water	3714-3716	\$199.66

The regular meeting was adjourned at 1:00p.m. for the Commissioners to hold a workshop on financial policies. Commissioner Leach, Commissioner Gale, Commissioner Esch, Manager Bischoff, Auditor McEathron, Steve Andersen, EES Consulting; and Jeb Spengler, Piper Jaffray via phone; were in attendance. No Board action was taken during the workshop.

The regular meeting reconvened at 2:50 p.m.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 2:50 p.m. to discuss Employee Performance per RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) for a duration of 40 minutes. Commissioner Leach, Commissioner Gale, Commissioner Esch, Manager Bischoff, and Auditor McEathron were in attendance. Executive session ended at 3:30 p.m.

Meeting reconvened and was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Clyde Leach, President

Dennis Gale, Secretary

The next regular scheduled Board of Commissioners' Meeting will be
Monday, July 7, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.