

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

February 6, 2012

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Dennis Gale at 9:00 a.m. at the PUD office in Carson, WA. The following persons were present: Commissioner Curt Esch; Commissioner Dennis Gale; Commissioner Clyde Leach; Interim Manager, Robert Gentry; Auditor, Jasen McEathron; Water Distribution Manager, Tom Vance; Scott Fielding, Special Project Coordinator; Attorney, Ken Woodrich; and WO Specialist/HR Coord., Shonna Taylor.

**AGENDA REVIEW:** There were no changes to the agenda.

**MINUTES:**

- Commissioner Esch made a **motion** to approve the January 16, 2012, Board of Commissioners meeting minutes as corrected. Commissioner Leach **seconded** the motion and the minutes were **approved unanimously**.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Lynn Weyand – Complimented the staff on a fantastic job during the storm and feels the service over the years has gotten better and better, although has never seen a storm like this. She recommended we hire an outside contractor to get a digital outage mapping system to save time. She expressed the importance of getting this done.
- Commissioner Gale agreed that we need a mapping system and this is going to be a priority with the new Special Project Coordinator that was recently hired.
- Commissioner Gale spoke about the new digital smart meters although it is very costly.
- Ms. Weyand was not suggesting smart meters, but if an outside contractor was hired the mapping system could be done in 2 to 4 months. Two to three years is not acceptable.
- Mary Repar- Spoke about the Wind River Nursery, the last time that the county did anything, a municipal water system was going to cost 3 million dollars. She cautioned the commissioners on getting involved with this project and does not want this past on to the ratepayers. She also spoke about the storm and felt the crew did a great job, but perhaps that undergrounding should be put in where feasible and felt we should start planning ahead.
- Commissioner Gale explained this is a weight and balance issue.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Special Project Coordinator** – Manager Gentry introduced Scott Fielding, Special Project Coordinator, who will be working on a number of projects to include the digital mapping system. Scott has a fish biology and project management background and expertise in water rights.
- **Industrial & Linde Well Water Rights: Phase 1 Report, Mark Yinger & Associates** – Tom Vance, Water Distribution Manager gave the history of the test well drilled on the Linde property. The 24 hour pump test showed a 100 gallons per minute and the PUD entered into a cost reimbursement program with the Department of Ecology to process our water rights and will let Mark Yinger explain his Phase 1 work.
- Mark Yinger explained Phase 1 is determining the source water body and based on that, identifying senior water right applications in that same source. The source water body has common flows. The Linde and Industrial wells pull from the base of Trout Creek Hill basalt and underlying gravels. Mr. Yinger presented his draft application for the Commissions’ review, questions and comments.
- **Fire Hydrant Use and Rates** – Manager Gentry did a presentation for the use of fire hydrants for contractors to be metered from two specific water hydrants located in Carson at the headquarters building and another located in Underwood at the Underwood Fire Station. A permit will be required and water usage metered at the hydrant through a special meter. Manager Gentry proposed a rate for this process. Commissioner Esch thought weather could be a factor in putting the meters in at times. Manager Gentry said he could put a provision in the resolution for this.
- **Resolution No. 2386, Fire Hydrant Use** – Manager Gentry presented Resolution No. 2386, Fire Hydrant Use and the proposed rates. After discussion, Commissioner Esch made a **motion** to pass Resolution No. 2386 as corrected. Commissioner Leach **seconded** the motion and the motion was passed **unanimously**.

## **MANAGER’S REPORT:**

Manager Gentry reported that the Professional Services Solicitation had been advertised and the District received 7 firms’ Statements of Qualifications. The qualifications of each respondent have been reviewed and evaluated and Triaxis, Inc. has been chosen for the experience and background on the substations. Commissioner Esch made a **motion** to approve ratification of the previous motion following the engineering evaluation. Commissioner Leach **seconded** the motion and the motion was approved **unanimously**.

Break at 10:17 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. to enter into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation (RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)).

Executive Session extended 15 minutes.  
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Executive Session ended at 12:00 p.m.

The regular meeting reconvened at 12:05 p.m.

**MANAGER’S REPORT CONTINUED:**

Manager Gentry discussed the status report provided to the Commissioners briefly commenting on various projects that have either been completed or are in the process. Items on the status report that were not been previously discussed in this meeting are as follows:

- Joint Task Force Grant Possibilities;
- WECC Report;
- Carson/Underwood Water Capital Improvements;
- Underwood Substation Expansion;
- Digital Mapping and GIS Work;
- CBA Negotiations;
- Retail Rate Adjustments.

**AUDITOR’S REPORT:**

Jasen McEathron, Auditor gave a report on several items.

- The office has been extremely busy;
- Cash Flow and pursuing FEMA money for the recent storm, noting the preliminary damage assessment has been filed with the county;
- Disaster Fund, wants to replenish and increase the cap to \$500,000;
- Year end closing;
- Hand held metering devices to switch by May 2012;
- New line truck and meter reading truck. Specifications of new line truck \$220,000;
- Audit exit February 7, 2012;
- BPA is being billed for a junction vault damaged in the prior storm.

**COMMISSIONER’S REPORT:**

- Commissioner Esch reported on the recent PPC meeting attended regarding the redispach of BPA from FERC. BPA has deadlines to meet and FERC is sitting on issues with wind. FERC is going to be more involved with BPA than ever before.

Staff and the commission reviewed the upcoming calendar events.

**VOUCHER APPROVAL:**

Commissioner Esch made a **motion** to approve the vouchers.

<b>Voucher</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Electric System	47330-47398	933,462.12
Carson Water	5890-5896	1,872.03
Underwood Water	3486-3489	6,801.28

Commissioner Leach **seconded** the motion, and the **motion was carried unanimously.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Sherry Esch commended the staff for thinking forward on replenishing the disaster fund and raising the cap. She also commented on the need for construction funds in both water systems.

Meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

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**Dennis Gale, President**

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**Curt Esch, Secretary**

The next regular scheduled Board of Commissioners' Meeting will be:  
**Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.**