



Mason County Public Utility District No. 1
Board of Commissioners Regular Board Meeting
April 14, 2020 Potlatch, Washington

Present:

Ron Gold, President (Online)
Mike Sheetz, Vice President (Online)
Jack Janda, Board Secretary (Online)
Kristin Masteller, General Manager
Darin Hall, Director of Operations
Katie Arnold, District Treasurer
Julie Gray, Executive Assistant (Online)
Rob Johnson, Legal Counsel (Online)

Visitors:

No public called into the toll-free line that was made available.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Minutes: March 31, 2020 Regular Board meeting

Disbursements:

<u>Accounts Payable Check Register</u>	
Accounts Payable Wire	\$123,754.16
Check Nos. 118371 - 118435	\$143,919.90
A/P Sub-Total	\$267,674.06
<u>Payroll Expense</u>	
Payroll Expense	\$ 87,409.21
Payroll Check No. 118370	\$ 5,808.12
Grand Total	\$360,891.39

Jack made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, Mike seconded the motion, Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public in attendance.

BUSINESS AGENDA:

Discussion on Twanoh Consolidation – Now that the water rates are levelized and the PUD is not assessing capital surcharges, Kristin recommends that the District move forward with the Twanoh Heights and Twanoh Terrace consolidations. The pushback from customers previously was due to financial implications for the system that didn't need additional connections. They didn't want to subsidize the neighboring system. Now this is a moot point with our financial consolidation. The water system consolidation plan is ready to be re-submitted and will be added to an upcoming board agenda for approval. The commission agreed to move it onto the agenda for consideration.

Approve Comment Letter for Draft EIS on Lower Snake River Dams – Kristin presented a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the future of the four Lower Snake River Dams. The letter included broad repercussions for the Pacific Northwest and



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public power ratepayers, as well as specifics to Mason PUD 1 customers. It also questioned the implementation of spill regimes given the science that has indicated spill is harmful to fish. The proposed alternative is not acceptable if it devalues the federal hydro system to make it more vulnerable to attacks in the future. Jack made a motion to approve the Comment Letter for Draft EIS on Lower Snake River Dams, Mike seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Retired Employee Medical Policy – Kristin presented the revisions to the language in the policy that clarified that separation from service must be due to an actual retirement to qualify for the retiree medical benefit. It also clarified eligibility guidelines, as they currently are in practice. Mike made a motion to approve the Retired Employee Medical Policy, Jack seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Authorize Manager to sign NISC/American Express Agreement – Katie presented an agreement that allows NISC users to accept American Express payments for a low flat transaction fee. Several customers have asked to be able to use their AmEx cards over the years. This gives them one more option for method of payment. Jack made a motion to Authorize the Manager to sign the NISC/American Express Agreement, Mike seconded the motion. Motion carried.

General Manager – Kristin commended Katie, Rich and Trish for deploying outside-the-box strategies to procure essential business supplies that the PUD needs to function safely. She reported that she has been sitting in on APPA's CEO conference calls regarding COVID-19 and the impact to utilities. BPA is contacting the utilities to let them know they are exploring options for assistance but have not laid out any specifics. The solar installers have been on site and should be able to meet the May 14th deadline to commission the Community Solar II project. Kristin has also been in contact with Energy Northwest regarding electric vehicle chargers for Hoodspout, as well as agreeing to be the sponsor of a grant through Bonneville Environmental Foundation on behalf of the Skokomish Tribe for EV chargers at their casino. The changes for the Union Regional Water plan were sent to Dept. of Health on Monday and forwarded also to requested stakeholders. These changes will reopen the comment period for 60 days. The extension for Well 3 at Alderbrook has been submitted. James is working with Tim Flynn from Aspect Engineering on this and will have a conference call with Ecology about how to move this extension forward. There is no movement on the Highland Estates water rights; Tim Flynn continues to check in with Ecology monthly. Everyone is working and healthy right now. We will continue our pattern of working from home and working in shifts for the foreseeable future.

Director of Operations – Darin reported that rotating crews is still working great. The electric crew is working on underground replacement at Timber Tides and have been working on replacing the underground on Foothills Park road. Darin reported that the walk thru for the electric project at Manzanita was well attended. Kristin thanked Rob Johnson for his suggestion to get those projects out to bid quickly while people are looking for public works projects. The tank cleaning bid for the Canal Mutual, Hood Canal, Lakewood Heights, Madrona Beach, Pirates Cove, Tiger Lakes, Twanoh Heights, Union and View Ridge Heights water systems was awarded to Advance Diving Services, Inc., in the amount of \$9,788.87. The water crew has finished with the rehab work at the Woodland pump house and also installed new bladder tanks. The safety meeting was canceled and will be rescheduled. There have been no accidents or near misses.



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Treasurer – Katie reported that we are monitoring the District’s cash flow and continuing to contact customers to setup payment plans on past due accounts. Kristin added that the PUD saw 3x the normal delinquent accounts this month due to widespread unemployment. She stated that other utilities are extending payment arrangements long term and that she hopes to do the same so that way there is a more stable amount of revenue coming in that the PUD can budget against.

Legal Counsel – Rob reported that new labor laws and changes to labor laws are being implemented every day. He continues to forward that information on to Kristin.

Correspondence: Included in correspondence was the news release from the *Shelton-Mason County Journal* announcing that PUD 1 would delay the electric rate increase for three months due to the COVID19 pandemic, as well as an article regarding the PUD’s water system grants. Also included was an article from NWPPA’s *Bulletin* where PUD 1 was interviewed regarding our pandemic response.

Board Reports:

Mike Sheetz: Mike will listen in to the WUPUDA meetings this week.

Jack Janda: Jack reported that he was been attending Energy NW meetings via Skype and will listen in on the WUPUDA meetings this week.

Ron Gold: Ron called into the WIRA meeting last week.

Adjournment: 1:47 p.m.

Ron Gold, President

Mike Sheetz, Vice President

Jack Janda, Secretary