



Mason County Public Utility District No. 1
Board of Commissioners Regular Board Meeting
August 11, 2020 Potlatch, Washington

Present:

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

Visitors:

No visitors on phone.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Minutes: July 28, 2020 Regular Board Meeting

Disbursements:

<u>Accounts Payable Check Register</u>	
Accounts Payable Wire	\$ 73,816.30
Check Nos. 118880 - 119015	\$ 147,480.24
A/P Total	\$ 221,296.54
<u>Payroll Expense</u>	
Payroll Wire	\$ 64,302.13
Grand Total	\$ 285,598.67

Mike made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, Jack seconded the motion, It passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public on phone.

BUSINESS AGENDA:

Review of Covid-19 Customer Assistance Program – Rob Johnson gave an overview of the requirements by the Governor’s office regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, which includes a public review and presentation of the customer assistance programs offered in response to the pandemic. Kristin presented the materials that were collated and posted on the District’s website. The direct link to that page is on the homepage of the site. Kristin also reported that the PUD has advertised LIHEAP and CAC funds, as well payment arrangements to every household and account through the mail, newsletters, bill stuffers, SmartHub Messenger notices, and direct calls to customers who are delinquent with their bills. The PUD has also applied for CARES Act funding that is distributed through Mason and Jefferson counties, and contacted members of our federal and state delegations for customer bill relief funds and fund to help offset the expenses of COVID-19 that have impacted the PUD’s operating budget. The Governor has extended his moratorium on utility disconnections and rate increases through October 15, 2020 and Kristin believes he will continue this throughout the year. The PUD is bracing for this financially.



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Relief funds that are applied directly to customer accounts not only help offset individual household debt, but it also provides much needed operating revenue for the PUD. The dollars have dual impact.

Review of District responses to WIRA-14 Proposals – Darin and Ron provided a review of the PUD’s responses to the WIRA-14 proposals by the Squaxin Island Tribe. Kristin asked the team to look at it through the lens of under which conditions could the PUD possibly support some of these proposals, and then provide that feedback, which we did. Some of the proposals the PUD simply cannot support. Anything that reduces property owners’ rights to develop or sell their properties, infringes on property owners’ rights, or hinders the PUD’s ability to serve its customers, is a non-starter for the PUD. Ron will attend the next WIRA meeting on Thursday, August 13. Kristin noted that Ron, Darin and James have done a really great job staying on top of all of these issues and being an active player in the WRIA group. Kristin is working with the other municipal water purveyors on finding common ground projects and positions to help move the planning forward. Jack and Mike were supportive of Ron and staff’s positions and asked for the response document to be forwarded to the WRIA Ecology facilitator from the entire governing body, not just the committee delegate. Darin said he would forward it to the facilitator on Ron and the board’s behalf.

Authorize the General Manager to sign Grant Agreement with Bonneville Environmental Foundation for ZEV Chargers at the Skokomish Tribe’s Property – Kristin reported that the PUD received a grant to install two level two electric vehicle chargers at the Lucky Dog Casino. This grant will pay 75% of the cost, leaving only 25% for the Tribe to pay. It covers the chargers, security lighting, signage and asphalt patching/stripping. Kristin would like permission to send the agreement to Rob for review and then execute it prior to the next board meeting. She should receive it this week.

Mike made a motion to Authorize the General Manager to sign the Grant Agreement with Bonneville Environmental Foundation for ZEV Chargers at the Skokomish Tribe’s property, Jack seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Staff Reports:

General Manager – Kristin reported that she has been working with Julie on logistics for the Customer Appreciation Event being held on September 25, 2020. This year due to COVID-19, the Customer Appreciation Event will be a drive thru event. She also reported that she had made contact with PUD 3, the County and the City regarding a clean energy designation for the City of Shelton and Mason County. The hope is that the resolutions will be passed prior to Public Power Week.

Director of Operations – Darin reported that the electric crew had finished Phase 1 of the Duckabush rebuild. The water crew is still working on changing captive air tanks out to bladder tanks in the pump houses. There was one accident where an employee fell on a steep embankment and twisted their ankle. It was not a time loss accident. The employee is on light duty. No safety meeting since the last board meeting.

Director of Business Services – Katie reported that she is working with the Department of Health on a feasibility grant for consolidating adjacent water systems. The grant must be submitted by the end of August.



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Correspondence: Correspondence included the press release for the ribbon cutting for the Community Solar II project, as well as publications from WPUDA and NWPPA. Kristin will forward *The Journal* article to the commission since she accidentally omitted it from the board packet.

Board Reports:

Ron Gold: Ron reported that he had called in to the PPC meeting and the WPEG meetings. He will also call into the WIRA meeting this week.

Mike Sheetz: No report.

Jack Janda: No report.

PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – No executive session.

Adjournment: 1:54 pm

Ron Gold, President

Mike Sheetz, Vice President

Jack Janda, Secretary