

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF FERRY COUNTY  
REGULAR MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS  
July 21, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Dan Fagerlie at 9:00 a.m. Present in person were Commissioners Dan Fagerlie, Doug Aubertin and Chris Kroupa, Manager Steve VanSlyke, Superintendent Mike Brown, Auditor Sue Nush, and Treasurer Pam Allen. Attorney Steve Graham joined the meeting at 9:46 a.m.

All stood for the Flag Salute.

After amendment, the minutes of the regular June meeting were approved by a motion made by Commissioner Kroupa, seconded by Commissioner Aubertin, and unanimously carried.

Visitors: Pete Remington and Loni Simone

Public Comments: Pete and Loni came to the meeting to discuss the new AMI meters that the District has been installing. Commissioner Fagerlie explained that they save money by remotely reporting the meters and uploading them into the billing system, and by showing outages, which helps the District respond more quickly and accurately to them. These meters were also selected for their minimal RF output. Commissioner Kroupa added that these are not spy devices. They only show power usage. New analog meters are also no longer available for the Utility to purchase. District staff used an RF meter to test various common home items to compare to the meter emissions and the meter has very little output. A copy of the study is available at the PUD office for anyone who is interested. Pete said that it looks like the meter has a camera. Manager VanSlyke said that it does not have a camera and what he sees is an optical coupler. Superintendent Brown offered to get Pete the technical specifications on the meters. Pete and Loni exited the meeting at 9:37 a.m.

Manager VanSlyke was contacted by a customer who was concerned that the late fee that the Utility will begin charging in August on bills not paid by the 15th of the month will be a burden on senior customers who may not receive their social security payments until later in the month.

Attorney Graham joined the meeting in person at 9:46 a.m.

Reports:

The Superintendent's Report was presented by Mike Brown:

1. The meter changeout project is almost complete. Superintendent Brown is working with the Forest Service towards installing a new meter gateway on Strawberry Mountain.
2. The contractor has completed this year's pole testing cycle.
3. Work on installing culverts and gates will begin soon on the Ten to Thirteen Mile Access Trail Project

Attorney's Report: There was no Attorney's Report.

As requested by the Board in June, Resolution 25-03 A Resolution Revising Rate Schedules was presented to the Board. Commissioner Kroupa made a motion to approve it, Commissioner Aubertin seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Resolution 25-05 A Resolution Declaring Property Surplus And Authorizing the Sale or Disposition of the Same, for old, obsolete computer equipment was presented to the Board. Commissioner Fagerlie asked about the hard drives and Manager VanSlyke said that all had been removed and destroyed. Commissioner Kroupa made a motion to approve it, Commissioner Aubertin seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

The Manager's Report was presented by Steve VanSlyke:

1. Manager VanSlyke is looking at using GovDeals.com, an on-line auction site for governmental agencies, to sell the District's surplus items. Local buyers can use it, and it would also go out to a wider area for bids.
2. Manager VanSlyke presented a Branded Clothing Policy for the Board to consider. It would allow the District to provide employees with some branded clothing to use when representing the Utility. It would also require that FR clothing provided to employees will be branded with the District logo if it is worn on the upper body. After discussion, and amendment on the disposal of such clothing, Commissioner Kroupa made a motion to approve the Policy, Commissioner Aubertin seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Visitor Randy Kinney joined the meeting at 10:10 a.m. to discuss the late fee that will be assessed on bills not paid by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. He is concerned that some seniors do not receive their social security checks until after that date. Commissioner Fagerlie suggested that they should consider going on the budget billing program, which has a set payment amount each month, and pay by credit card. There is also a senior low-income program that reduces the monthly bill by \$17 a month. Randy exited the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

A recess was called at 10:20 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:30 a.m. The Board went into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation as per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i), at 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Superintendent Brown, Auditor Nush, and

Treasurer Allen exited the meeting at this time. The Board returned to Regular Session at 11:30 a.m. Superintendent Brown, Auditor Nush, and Treasurer Allen rejoined the meeting at this time.

Manager’s Report continued:

- 3. The purchase of the property next door from Dina Evans has closed, and the District has begun to turn it into additional office space. The renter in one side of the unit has been given notice and will be out by the end of August. Since the original owner had required a deposit from them, the District will not charge rent for August in lieu of the deposit being returned. Attorney Graham said that legally the previous owner is responsible for returning the deposit but because of the minimal amount, he thinks this is okay. The Board agreed.
- 4. Bid packages for the substation upgrade and for the purchase of transformers and conductor to extend distribution lines are due back by July 28<sup>th</sup> and will be opened at a Special Meeting on July 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. The DOE has requested that the District revise project milestones to remove DEI items. Associated dollars may be used for other parts of the project. Manager VanSlyke will work on a proposal.
- 5. The District has been asked to help the CWPU UIP by issuing payments for the Trust’s expenditures, which would then be reimbursed by the other Trust members. Auditor Nush believes that it will not be very time-consuming. The Board approved.

Attorney Graham exited the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

The Treasurer’s Report was presented by Pam Allen:

- 1. The regular Treasurer’s reports were mailed to the Board for review prior to the meeting. Operating Funds available as of July 10, 2025 were \$4,445,649.06 with restricted funds of \$3,450,458.03. There were 13 outages in the month of June, for a year-to-date total of 60 compared to 59 for the same period in 2024. The Large Power Summary, Revolving Loan and Line Extension Loan reports were also included in the mailed packet.

The Auditor’s Report was included in the mailed Board packet.

- 1. The voucher listing was presented to the Board.
- 2. Warrants number 23852 through 23923, Direct Payroll Deposits number 907719 through 907761, and Electronic Fund Transfers number 1147 through 1154 and 1156, in the total amount of \$763,506.41 were approved by a motion made by Commissioner Kroupa, seconded by Commissioner Aubertin, and unanimously carried. Included in the list was warrant number 23852 that was voided due to a clerical error before being released.
- 3. Cost and usage graphs were presented and discussed.

The commissioners presented information from meetings they attended since the last Board Meeting.

With no other business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Public Utility District Number One  
Ferry County, Washington

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President

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Vice-President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

APPROVED:

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Manager