

MINUTES

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF BENTON COUNTY REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

Date: August 25, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: 2721 West 10th Avenue, Kennewick, Washington

Present: Commissioner Jeff Hall, President
Commissioner Lori Kays-Sanders, Vice-President
Commissioner Mike Massey, Secretary
General Manager Rick Dunn
Chief Financial Officer Jon Meyer
Chief Operating Officer Chris Folta
Director of IT & Broadband Services Jennifer Holbrook
Director of Human Resources & Communications Karen Dunlap
Director of Conservation & Distributed Energy Resources Chris Johnson
Director of Customer Service and Treasury Keith Mercer
Director of Engineering Evan Edwards
Records Program Administrator II Nykki Drake
General Counsel Allyson Dahlhauser

Benton PUD employees present during all or a portion of the meeting, either in person or virtually: Annette Cobb, Manager of Customer Service; Dax Berven, Senior Engineer; Duane Crum, Manager of IT Infrastructure; Duane Szendre, Superintendent of Operations; Eric Dahl, Communications Specialist II; Jenny Sparks, Manager of Communications & Customer Engagement; Jodi Henderson, Manager of Government & Community Relations; Katie Grandgeorge, Financial Analyst III; Kent Zirker, Manager of Accounting; Michelle Ness, Supervisor of Distribution Design; Jessie Grad, Superintendent of Transmission & Distribution; Robert Frost, Supervisor of Energy Programs; Shannon Sensibaugh, Administrative Assistant, II; Tyson Brown, Procurement Specialist II; Shawn Harper, Superintendent of Support Services; Anthony Johnson, IT Security Engineer II.

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The Commission and those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Review

Approved as presented.

Public Comment

None.

Consent Agenda

MOTION: Commissioner Sanders moved to approve the Consent Agenda items “a” through “e”. Commissioner Massey seconded and upon vote, the Commission unanimously approved the following:

- a. Regular Commission Meeting Minutes of August 11, 2026
- b. Travel Report dated August 25, 2026
- c. Resolution No. 2734 – Whistleblower Policy
- d. Vouchers (report dated August 25, 2026) audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing made available to the Commission and approved as follows for payment:
Accounts Payable: Automated Clearing House (DD) Payments: 116340-116363 and 116521-116561 in the amount of \$1,683,232.52
Checks & Customer Refund Payments (CHK): 92626-92700 in the amount of \$102,722.91;
Electronic Fund Transfer (WIRE) Payments: 7670-7679 in the amount of \$530,668.30;
Residential Conservation Rebates: Credits on Customer Accounts in the amount \$80.00;
Payroll: Direct Deposit – 08/13/2026: 116364-116520 in the amount \$486,683.15;
Grand total - \$2,803,386.88
- e. Award Contract #26-21-15 – Padmount Switchgear – PME 11 & PME 12 – Anixter Inc. (S&C)

Management Report

Chief Operating Officer - Chris Folta

1. Grandview-Red Mountain 115-kV Transmission Line Update

Chief Operating Officer Chris Folta provided the Commission with an update on the BPA Grandview–Red Mountain 115 kV transmission line. The COO reviewed the transmission line route and discussed key facilities along the system, including the BPA Grandview Substation, BPA Red Mountain Switchyard, BREA Snipes and Acord substations, and the USBR Chandler Pump Station. The COO also provided an update on a meeting held with BPA staff on the frequency of momentary interruptions experienced for District customers served from this transmission line as well as several action items being taken to address the overall performance.

Chief Financial Officer - Jon Meyer

1. Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Quarter Business Review

Chief Financial Officer Jon Meyer provided the Commission with an update on BPA’s 3rd Quarter Business Review (QBR), highlighting BPA’s forecast on reserves for risk for the power business unit. The forecast is showing a possibility that a Financial Reserve Policy

surcharge could be triggered in November. If triggered the maximum surcharge to the District would be about \$1.5 million and would be collected over the December 2026 to September 2027 billing periods.

2. BPA Financial Policy Refresh

Chief Financial Officer Jon Meyer provided the Commission with an update on BPA's Financial Policy Refresh. The CFO reviewed the timeline for upcoming workshops, development of the draft policy, and the financial plan update. The first financial policy workshop was held last week and was focused on providing background and context for the existing policy. During the workshop, BPA staff did mention some general concepts around reducing BPA's leverage, which would have upward pressure on rates. BPA staff also mentioned the current caps on the Financial Reserve Policy surcharge (\$40 million) and the Cost Recovery Adjustment Clause surcharge (\$300 million) may not be sufficient.

3. Bond Resolution

Chief Financial Officer Jon Meyer provided the Commission with an update on the District's 2026 bond issuance process and proposed bond resolution authorities. A bond resolution will be presented at the next Commission meeting. Rating agency meetings are scheduled for August 25 and 26, 2026.

4. Financial Report

Chief Financial Officer Jon Meyer provided the Commission with a financial report for July, 2026.

General Manager – Rick Dunn

1. NWPCC 9th Plan

General Manager Rick Dunn provided the Commission with an update on the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's 9th Power Plan. Dunn reviewed projected resource needs for 2032, pointing out the Council analyzed thirteen sensitivities. Dunn also highlighted the projected need for new natural gas power plants across all sensitivities, noting that the Council limited natural gas plants to no more than 3,000 megawatts due to pipeline constraints. Dunn said he is impressed with the thoroughness of the Council's Power Plan and that legislators tend to believe what it says. So, it is good news to see development of new natural gas plants being proposed by the Council which is exactly what the Bonneville Power Administration's highly variable federal hydro needs for hedging physical and financial risks going forward.

2. Letter to Governor Kotek

General Manager Rick Dunn reviewed a letter sent to Oregon Governor Tina Kotek from a coalition of trade associations and Oregon consumer-owned utilities regarding her Oregon Hydropower Day declaration on August 24th and how her administration's actions to undermine the value of the Federal Columbia River Power System are in stark contrast to publicly declaring support for hydropower. The coalition requested that Oregon withdraw from federal litigation affecting the hydropower system and instead pursue a collaborative, non-litigation-based approach to address regional energy and fish issues. The letter also highlighted concerns regarding the potential impacts of reduced hydropower generation on electric rates, carbon emissions, and system reliability.

3. Columbia River Treaty Update

Manager of Government & Community Relations Jodi Henderson provided the Commission with an update on a recent in-person meeting of the Columbia River Treaty Power Group where they discussed the Agreement in Principle (AIP) which was negotiated in 2024 but has yet to be finalized. The big hangup at this point is the ecosystem provision included in the AIP and the role of the Joint Ecological Board (JEB) which would be comprised solely of Canadian and American tribal representatives. Power Group members were asked to provide clarity as to what they would like to see in a final proposal when it comes to the JEB and then another meeting will be held to see if consensus can be reached.

4. Cascade Advanced Energy Facility Update

GM Rick Dunn provided the Commission with an update on the Cascade Advanced Energy Facility. Energy Northwest's Executive Board is evaluating multiple ownership models, including those where Energy Northwest would not be the owner. GM Dunn shared that Energy Northwest is starting a new engagement effort with the General Managers of member utilities so they are better informed regarding significant projects, strategic issues and topics coming before the Energy Northwest Boards.

Business Agenda

Award Contract #26-18-06 – Absco Solutions – Access Control Expansion – Auto Shop, Meter Shop and Operations

Manager of IT Infrastructure Duane Crum presented a contract recommendation for the expansion of the District's access control system at the Auto Shop, Meter Shop, and Operations facilities.

Manager of IT Infrastructure Duane Crum reviewed the District's previous physical security assessment and implementation of its enterprise access control platform. The proposed project will expand the existing system to additional doors and facilities, improving physical security, access control, and system visibility while utilizing the District's existing platform.

The contract amount of \$161,495.77, plus applicable Washington State sales tax, is included within the District's 2026 capital budget.

MOTION: Commissioner Sanders moved to authorize the General Manager, on behalf of the District, to sign and award Contract #26-18-06 to Absco Solutions to expand access control into the Auto Shop, Meter Shop, and Operations facilities in the amount of \$161,495.77, plus applicable Washington State sales tax, as presented. Commissioner Massey seconded, and upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

The Commission briefly recessed, reconvening at 10:20 a.m.

Future Planning

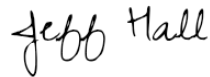
Commissioner Hall and Commission Massey will be attending the WPUA meeting in September.

Executive Session - Review Performance of Public Employee

The Commission went into executive session at 10:22 a.m. for 30 minutes with GM Rick Dunn and Director of Human Resources & Communications Karen Dunlap to discuss the performance of a public employee. The Commission came out of executive session at 10:52 a.m.

Adjournment

Hearing no objection, President Hall adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.



Jeff Hall, President

ATTEST:



Mike Massey, Secretary

Signature Certificate



Envelope Ref:f8169467c84b06d35325b5f599371f7afd11c90b

Author: Nykki Drake Creation Date: 08 Sep 2026, 10:35:08, PDT Completion Date: 09 Sep 2026, 10:23:57, PDT

Document Details:

Name: Commission Minutes - 2026-08-25

Type:

Document Ref: 0400172012bfed51e2c7af1c503e951543a4728026ee75877d14eff99266a9d5

Document Total Pages: 5

Name: Commission Voucher Report 2026-09-08

Type:

Document Ref: 9e8ab88e07c106a768bc1f9af033582641451aaf0d09046f7d3270b6c3822626

Document Total Pages: 18

Name: Resolution 2735 2026 Bond

Type:

Document Ref: 8bd829f5c631a890e72a9f2c13167a65183a8abcca830690c277a4b232811ed7

Document Total Pages: 63

Name: Resolution 2736 Amending Nonstandard Discretionary Compensation and Benefits

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Document Total Pages: 16

Document Signed By:

Name: Mike Massey
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Signer ID: VW84ECQC19...

IP: 50.37.190.245
Location: KENNEWICK, WA (US)
Date: 09 Sep 2026, 09:26:00, PDT
Consent: eSignature Consent Accepted
Security Level: Email

Name: Lori Sanders
Email: lsanders@bentonpud.org
Signer ID: GSCWPALF19...

Lori Sanders

IP: 2607:fb91:15c6:e23:e192:3831:2d9c:7f27
Location: SEATTLE, WA (US)
Date: 09 Sep 2026, 10:23:57, PDT
Consent: eSignature Consent Accepted
Security Level: Email

Name: Jeff Hall
Email: jhall@bentonpud.org
Signer ID: IO4D7JJI19...
IP: 131.150.245.73
Location: PROSSER, WA (US)
Date: 09 Sep 2026, 09:38:20, PDT
Consent: eSignature Consent Accepted
Security Level: Email

Jeff Hall

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Signed by Lori Sanders	Lori Sanders signed this Envelope on 09 Sep 2026, 10:23:57, PDT
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Signed Document(s)	Link emailed to jhall@bentonpud.org
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