

**Minutes of the Special Meeting (Chelan County Tri-Commission)  
of the Commission  
of Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County, Washington  
August 11, 2020**

The special meeting of the Commission, of Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County, Washington, was held via Zoom, on August 11, 2020, at the hour of 1:00 pm, pursuant to proper notice thereof.

**Chelan PUD Commissioners and Staff present:**

Garry Arseneault, Commissioner  
Dennis Bolz, Commissioner  
Ann Congdon, Commissioner  
Steve McKenna, Commissioner  
Randy Smith, Commissioner  
Steve Wright, General Manager  
Justin Erickson, Managing Director of District Services  
Rebekah Garfein, Clerk of the Board  
Neil Neroutsos, Communications Manager  
Rachel Hansen, Senior Communications Strategist  
Jim White, Senior Energy Conservation Engineer  
Bob Shane, Interim Managing Director of Fiber and Telecom

**Chelan County Commissioners and Staff present:**

Bob Bugert, Commissioner  
Doug England,  
Kevin Overbay, Commissioner  
Blake Baldwin, Economic Development Director

**Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority  
Commissioners and Staff present:**

JC Baldwin, Commissioner  
Jim Huffman, Commissioner  
Mark Spurgeon, Commissioner  
Rory Turner, Commissioner  
Jim Kuntz, Executive Director  
Cami Harris, Administrative Assistant  
Monica Lough, Director of Finance & Administration

**Others present:**

Jim Fletcher, Cashmere Mayor  
Bob Goedde, Chelan Mayor  
Carl Florea, Leavenworth Mayor  
Frank Kuntz, Wenatchee Mayor  
Shiloh Burgess, Chamber of Commerce  
Wade Farris, Chelan Administrator  
Laura Merrill, Wenatchee Executive Services Director

**Call To Order**

- Chelan County PUD President, Garry Arseneault, called the meeting to order at 1:02pm

**Pledge of Allegiance**

- Justin Erickson led the pledge

**Tri-Commission Discussion Topics**

- Chelan County Commission
  - CARES ACT Implementation (see presentation on the Chelan PUD website)
    - Jim Kuntz and Monica Lough reviewed funds received to date under the CARES ACT and fund distributions
    - The Port anticipates funding about \$3M in total with continued unmet needs; the Port opted not to take an overhead charge, so that 100% of the funds can be distributed to small businesses

- Anticipate additional funding from the Department of Commerce, which will have additional flexibility
  - COVID19 Impacts / Response Update
    - Kevin Overbay reported on last week's visit from the Department of Health, CDC, and incident command staff
    - Additional resources may be available from the State
    - The Chelan Douglas Health District (CDHD) is coordinating a local policy group to set clear goals and objectives, understand financing needs, and testing needs
      - CDHD may request staff on loan for up to 10 days to support this effort
    - A group of CDHD staff is being assigned to support the ongoing incident command structure so other staff can resume regular duties
    - Doug England indicated the County is further examining their paid leave and family leave policies and noted it would be nice if the three agencies were on the same page with leave
- Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority
  - Lineage Properties (see presentation on the Chelan PUD website)
    - Jim Kuntz gave an overview of the Lineage properties, which has been split into three nodes for redevelopment
    - The Port has signed an MOU for the north node, with requirements for design elements
    - All parking will remain public; the objective was to bring in businesses that will have a regional impact
  - Pangborn Approach Lighting (see presentation on the Chelan PUD website)
    - Will allow touchdown with only a half mile of visibility, improving winter reliability by 67%
    - Goal is to have it completed in October 2021
- Chelan County PUD
  - Stehekin Energy Planning
    - Jim White reviewed load growth and peak loads in Stehekin; anticipate significant growth in the next few years
    - Some days have peaked at just over 250kW; if the peak exceeds 255kW, we will run out of capacity
    - Steve Wright noted that our permit does not allow us to run the large diesel generators to serve capacity; they are only for use during emergencies or system maintenance
    - The load growth we're seeing far exceeds the conservation options; we have an obligation to serve, but need to connect with the County on the permit process given the limited resources in Stehekin
  - Fiber Expansion
    - Bob Shane reported that fiber is currently available to 76% of the county with a take rate of 52%
    - We are delivering gigabit services to homes; this is the solution that everyone else is driving towards
    - The Public Power Benefit program continues with planning underway for 2021 areas of expansion
    - A proposal has been presented to the PUD Commissioners outlining how we might accelerate the expansion project
    - Staff also continues to look at technologies that might bring fiber capabilities to the last 10-15% of the county that won't be connected by traditional methods; partnering with Microsoft to explore options
    - Monitoring system bandwidth for any congestion; will resolve any issues prior to the start of school
    - Continue to monitor funding opportunities for any that we might be eligible to pursue
  - COVID19 Response and Impacts
    - Steve Wright reported on the District Performance Plan, which tracks over 200 items; usually at this time we are on track with 80% of metrics, that has fallen to just over 50% this year due to the impacts of COVID19
    - About 40% of staff must work onsite and a portion of those must work within 6 feet of each other; very appreciative of the relationship with Confluence and CDHD as we work through various issues
    - Concern about the level of infection in the community; engaging with the community and making sure the workforce understands the risks away from work
    - Sequestration plans are in place for certain parts of our workforce, if necessary; would be a last resort

**Insights from the Mayors**

- Frank Kuntz, Wenatchee Mayor
  - COVID19 budget impacts have been significant; anticipate a ~\$2M shortfall, which is covered by reserves
    - Working on 2021 budget; difficult to predict sales tax revenue
  - Spent \$700-800k in CARES ACT funding with ~\$250k remaining; holding on to some of that in anticipation of another downturn
  - Received funding from the Port to complete the NEPA funding for Confluence Parkway; will be requesting funding from Link Transit for environmental work, which is critical to the project
- Bob Goedde, Chelan Mayor
  - Immense problem with social distancing in the parks; have hired a security firm to monitor access
    - Residents can come in at any time, but visitors will be turned away once the parking lot is full
  - Downtown businesses are suffering, especially restaurants due to seating limitations
  - Construction and real estate activity will force changes to infrastructure pretty quickly
- Carl Florea, Leavenworth Mayor
  - Primarily a tourist-driven economy; trying our best to keep that open
  - Closed Front Street to vehicle traffic/parking to allow social distancing and expanded restaurant seating
  - Huge dip in sales tax, most noticeably the hotel/motel tax
- Jim Fletcher, Cashmere Mayor
  - Working with the County to extend Sunset Avenue from the Port property to the new Goodwin Bridge
  - Would like to consider sharing more top-end talent with other cities
  - Appreciates the Port’s CARES ACT assistance
  - Taking time to think about what will be needed in the future and how we might plan for that now

**Commissioner Comments**

- Doug England appreciates the selfless offers of help between the entities; we all serve the same people
- JC Baldwin asked about the Goodwin Bridge project
  - Bob Bugert reports it is on schedule and within budget and the old bridge is still for sale
- Jim Huffman gave kudos to the PUD for working with local providers on the Wi-Fi hotspots
- Randy Smith noted that this will be Doug England’s last Tri-Commission meeting and thanked him for 12 years of service

**Next Tri-Commission Meeting**

- Will be held in November and will focus on legislative issues

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 2:28pm.

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President

  
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Vice President

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Secretary

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Commissioner

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Commissioner



CHELAN COUNTY

Do you approve the 08-11-20 Tri-Commission minutes?:

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**Approved By:**

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Garry Arseneault on 8/26/20 9:28AM Pacific Time (US & Canada)

**Approved By:**

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Dennis Bolz on 8/19/20 11:01AM Pacific Time (US & Canada)

**Approved By:**

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Ann Congdon on 8/24/20 3:50PM Pacific Time (US & Canada)

**Approved By:**

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Randy Smith on 8/31/20 1:28PM Pacific Time (US & Canada)