

On Jan 21, 2016, at 9:27 PM, Jo Ann Tucker <joann@nwi.net> wrote:

I am addressing this email to you as president of the Commissioners. I would like to express my opinion regarding two issues that have appeared in The Wenatchee World regarding the PUD.

First is the one entitled "High cost could back-burner PUD splash-pad proposal." I would definitely applaud the Commissioners for tabling this project at the current time. I am, however, quite astounded at how the Rotary can build a splash-pad for \$104,000 and the PUD estimates the cost from \$800,000 to a \$2 million to build one. Perhaps a study of how Rotary can do a similar project for \$104,000 vs. the extreme high cost the PUD has come up with might be a valuable tool in any future plans for such a project. The PUD estimates are certainly mind-boggling!!

Secondly I would like to comment on the current Bitcoin rate request. I would think the statement, I assume put out by the PUD, that says "Bitcoin mining also uses so much electricity that it threatens to deplete the surplus electricity generated by the PUD's dams. The PUD sells this energy to buyers outside the county and uses the revenue to subsidize local rates to keep them low" should sum up the whole question of power and rates to Bitcoin miners. The article goes on to state that the higher rate is necessary because of the huge amount of electricity these businesses use to they "won't force the utility to increase electric rates for its other residential, commercial and industrial customers."

I comment Commissioner Boltz for questioning why the PUD would make rate concessions for a group that has an experimental and unpredictable future and has very little value or contribution to our local economy. Commissioner Arsenault states that the surplus "comes as part of the legacy of those who took that early risk and built the dams and should be preserved so low rates can continue into the future." Obviously the early risk of those pioneer visionaries has benefited millions and millions of people over the years through many, many avenues.

When one sees the wisdom that several of your Commissioners have expressed in that article, I wonder why the PUD keeps looking to appease people that are not planning to add value to the greater Wenatchee, Chelan, Cashmere, Leavenworth, etc. valleys. From what I have read previously, these folks will move on if they can find cheaper accommodations for their needs somewhere else. They are not here because of our values, quality of life, or any other reason than we are the cheapest place, at this point in time, they can find. I believe in that article you have answered your own queries regarding rates and the supply of electricity allowed to Bitcoin miners.

Thank you for your attention to these comments.

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