

# Minutes of the Special Meeting (Chelan County Tri-Commission) of the Commission of Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County, Washington August 8, 2023

The special meeting of the Commission, of Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County, Washington, was held at Confluence Technology Center, 285 Technology Center Way, Wenatchee, on August 8, 2023, at the hour of 1:00 pm, pursuant to proper notice thereof.

## **Chelan PUD Commissioners and Staff present:**

Randy Smith, Commissioner President  
Carnan Bergren, Commissioner  
Kelly Allen, Commissioner  
Kirk Hudson, General Manager  
Justin Erickson, Managing Director District Services  
Rebekah Neumann, Clerk of the Board  
Bob Shane, Managing Director Fiber & Telecom  
Dan Frazier, Director Shared Services  
Libby Siebens, Communications Manager  
Kelli Scott, Govt/External Affairs Program Manager

## **Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority**

### **Commissioners and Staff present:**

JC Baldwin, Commissioner  
Donn Etherington, Commissioner  
Richard DeRock, Commissioner  
Jim Huffman, Commissioner  
Mark Spurgeon, Commissioner  
Jim Kuntz, Chief Executive Officer  
Monica Lough, Director of Finance

## **Chelan County Commissioners and Staff present:**

Kevin Overbay, Commissioner  
Shon Smith, Commissioner  
Tiffany Gering, Commissioner  
Anabel Torres, Deputy Clerk of the Board  
Eric Pierson, Director Public Works  
Jason Detamore, Environmental Manager  
Ron Cridlebaugh  
Jill FitzSimmons, Public Information Officer  
Kirsi Jones

## **Others present:**

Representative Keith Goehner  
Bob Goedde, Chelan Mayor  
Carl Florea, Leavenworth Mayor  
Frank Kuntz, Wenatchee Mayor  
Jerrilea Crawford, East Wenatchee Mayor  
Rosa Pulido, Wenatchee Downtown Association  
Malachi Salcido, Salcido Group Inc.  
Ruben Betancourt, Chelan Douglas Coal. for Health  
Jenny Rojanasthien, NCW Tech Alliance  
Emily Thornton, Wenatchee World

## **Call To Order**

- President Smith called the meeting to order at 1:09pm
- Justin Erickson led the pledge of allegiance

## **Tri-Commission Updates**

- Chelan County Commission
  - Project Coordination MOU – Commissioner Gering
    - Concerns that there have been times when we're not coordinating as effectively as we could
    - Discussed how this is working in Douglas County
    - Port will take the lead to set up a meeting with one commissioner and staff member from each entity

- Radar Gap: Weather Forecasting - Jason Detamore
  - Provided information on the radar gap in Central Washington
  - Doppler radars don't reach Central Washington and Central Oregon; short intensity storms that can cause public safety issues aren't picked up
  - Looking for federal funding for smaller radar location feasibility study
  - Benefits the community in various ways to cover this radar gap; increased safety with more advanced warning of weather events
  - The Port will discuss with Senator Cantwell during an upcoming meeting
- Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority – Jim Kuntz
  - Malaga Economic Development
    - Microsoft is proceeding with data center in Malaga with 3 buildings
      - In the process of filing for permits, working with PUD on substation
        - Complimentary of the PUD and County permitting process
      - Port is working to acquire adjacent property to facilitate 3 additional buildings for Microsoft
      - Approximately 75 jobs per building; takes about 18 months to build each building
      - Large tax implications for Chelan County
      - Port is building out water infrastructure currently and has plans for future phases
      - Port is developing a cooling water disposal system
        - Water testing will determine what future uses the water might have
    - Unified Tax Levy
      - Thanks to Representative Goehner for his assistance
      - Preserves regional representation, equalizes the tax across both counties
      - Requires majority vote of both districts; expect to be on the ballot this fall
- Chelan County PUD – Dan Frazier
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Street Redevelopment
    - Long process, thanks to the Port for their help on this
    - Still the goal to complete according to community vision document
    - Focusing on the back portion of the site
    - Working on a purchase and sale agreement to sell the Fish & Wildlife building, and adjacent parking to Music Theatre of Wenatchee
    - 2 lots targeted by YMCA; have a draft purchase and sale agreement
      - They've released a schematic design
      - We're working on integration of roadway to enhance those uses
    - Fleet shop would work well for adaptive reuse
    - Once back of the property is settled, will focus on the front area which would be well-suited for high-revenue reuse such as hotel with street-level storefronts
  - Service Center Update
    - PUD studied consolidation 4 times over the past 20 years
    - Made sense to consolidate operations on one site, primarily an operations center
    - Provides customer-owners with best service
    - Efficiency gained by operations site was the driver for consolidation
    - Office building is nearing completion, reviewed operations buildings
    - Grand Opening in Fall 2023; targeting October 7

**Broadband Action Team Update, Broadband and Digital Equity Plan – Kelli Scott, Jenny Rojanasthien**

- PUD and Tech Alliance, with help from OVOF, formed the BAT
- Infrastructure plan identifies current infrastructure locations and future desired locations
- Digital equity plan will guide how State applies for and distributes federal funding
  - Noted key findings; digital equity intertwined with other inequities

- Wanted to provide opportunity to bring more funding to our region in the future
- September – digital equity month; will cover many topics in September
- Take rate and lack of devices are impacted by affordability
- Refurbishment program – partnered with Wenatchee School District, who donates used equipment; refurbished by volunteers, given to anyone who asks
  - Looking for more public partners to increase refurbishment donations
  - Membership in Tech Alliance allows them to organize programs such as this
- Questions about inaccurate broadband mapping
  - Bob Shane explained original mapping process, federal government hired a third party to gather updated information

#### **Regional Sports Complex Update – Jerrilea Crawford**

- Thanks to Port and Stacie de Mestre, who has been overseeing the consultant
- Consultant has been paid for, in part, by regional agencies
- Consultant is working on community information collection
  - Regional Aquatic center survey
  - Compiling demographic info and trends
  - Sports and aquatics user groups
    - Type of fields, courts, pools, times of use, teams that use, different levels of expertise, etc
  - Consultant continues to gather information
    - Website had 4200 site visits, 710 unique users, 135 comments as of a few weeks ago
  - Will determine what community wants and is willing to support via sales tax
- Plan on an economic analysis of each of the options

#### **Insights From the Mayors**

- Frank Kuntz, Wenatchee
  - North Wenatchee Ave project continues
  - Paved Worthen Street
  - Confluence Parkway
    - Completed land exchange with PUD, work with State on funding, term sheet with federal government
    - Waiting for final environmental report, awaiting reimbursement from the feds
    - Engineers are studying overpass/underpass at Miller Street to determine most cost-effective solution
  - How are the safe parks working out?
    - So far so good, other cities are contacting us as ours are working better than others
  - The remodel at Lincoln Park is fantastic
- Carl Florea, Leavenworth
  - Adding a roundabout in Leavenworth, in conjunction with Link Transit
  - Interested in partnerships in the upper valley
  - Challenges the thought that housing market can keep up with Microsoft influx, given that we are already behind
    - #1 problem statewide for economic development is housing
    - Commissioner Bergren expressed support for focusing on housing and modernizing policies
    - Jim Kuntz noted that Microsoft has invested heavily in the Malaga water system and East Wenatchee Water District, beyond what is necessary for their facilities, to provide community benefit

#### **Other Information**

- Representative Goehner reported that a local government committee is coming to the area on October 9
  - Will be looking at the Malaga area
  - Growth management policies set in Olympia

- Commitment to trying to help people understand where bottlenecks are
- Any cities that want to weigh in, please let Representative Goehner know

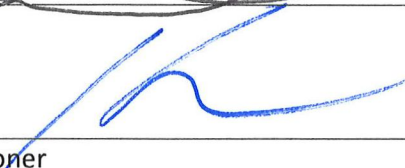
There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 2:54pm.

  
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Vice President

  
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Commissioner

  
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President

  
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Secretary

  
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Commissioner