

**Minutes of the Special Meeting (Chelan County Tri-Commission)
of the Commission
of Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County, Washington
December 12, 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 December 12, 2023, at the hour of 1:00 pm, pursuant to proper notice thereof.

Chelan PUD Commissioners and Staff present:

Randy Smith, Commissioner President
Garry Arseneault, Commissioner
Carnan Bergren, Commissioner
Steve McKenna, Commissioner
Kelly Allen, Commissioner
Kirk Hudson, General Manager
Justin Erickson, Managing Director District Services
Rebekah Neumann, Clerk of the Board
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
Sarah Deenik, Communications Coordinator

Chelan County Commissioners and Staff present:

Kevin Overbay, Commissioner
Tiffany Gering, Commissioner
Shon Smith, Commissioner
Sasha Sleiman, Housing Program Coordinator
Anabel Torres, Deputy Clerk of the Board
Ron Cridlebaugh
Jill FitzSimmons, Public Information Officer

Others present:

Senator Brad Hawkins
Representative Keith Goehner
Representative Mike Steele
Bob Goedde, Chelan Mayor
Carl Florea, Leavenworth Mayor
Jim Fletcher, Cashmere Mayor
Mike Poirer, Wenatchee Mayor-Elect
Steve Wilkinson, Wenatchee Chamber
Steve Keene, Peshastin Water
Malachi Salcido, Salcido Group Inc.
Ruby Gaston, Rep. Schrier's Office
Nick Covey, Link Transit

Call To Order

- President Smith called the meeting to order at 1:06pm and led the pledge of allegiance

2024 Legislative Session

- Senator Brad Hawkins
 - Session will be very fast-paced; short, 60-day session
 - Modest adjustments to adopted budgets; will also consider bills that did not pass last session and other legislation
 - Serving on education, transportation and higher education committees
 - Noted cost escalation on transportation projects

- Representative Mike Steele
 - Priorities – newly elected deputy leader of the Republican caucus
 - Continues to serve on the capital budget, education, and rules committees; discontinued role on appropriations committee
 - Addressing Climate Commitment Act exemption; expect qualified initiatives for Climate Commitment Act and capital gains
 - Concern that dollars have been spent and how that gap would be addressed should the underlying legislation be removed
- Representative Keith Goehner
 - Focusing on public safety including law enforcement staffing
 - Committee work
 - Concern about putting more responsibility on local government; make sure that policies don't impede the work of local governments
 - Transportation committee – not sure how much will be completed due to cost escalation
 - Environment Committee – need to ensure resource adequacy and grid reliability
- Commissioner Bergren asked about legislators' stance on a statewide low income energy assistance program; asked for consideration for what the PUD already has in place
 - Local control of this program seems the best option
- Mayor Fletcher - for districts that are highly reliant on property taxes, any possibility of ability to raise property taxes?
 - Hard to do that at the legislative level; more likely at the local level
- Mayor Goedde – ask for the last 1% lodging tax that Chelan and Leavenworth didn't take initially

2024 Tri-Commission Legislative Priorities

- Public Works Board / Trust Fund – Permanent Funding
 - Funding was restored in 2023 – thank you for that; risk of diversion of funds in the future
- Broadband Funding
 - Evaluating programs available and rules and regulations associated with funding
- Regional Infrastructure Support
 - Second water source
 - Confluence Parkway
- Port thanked legislators for prioritization of local projects
 - Need more capital dollars for construction of hangars at Pangborn, including one for Airlift Northwest
 - Legislators noted the next major capital budget will be in 2025
- Chelan County thanked legislators on housing funding as well as funding for the Center for Drug and Alcohol Treatment
 - Medicaid gap offset
 - Chelan water line extension

Tri-Commission Updates


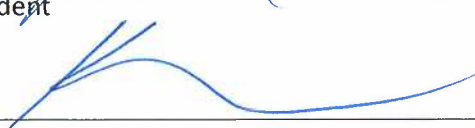

- Chelan County Commission
 - Wildfire Mitigation: Upper Wenatchee pilot project
 - Mike Kaputa, Natural Resource Manager at Chelan County, and Jeanie Davidson and Gordon Veneer from Blue Forest Conservation reviewed pilot program near Fish Lake, goals of program, wildfire risk modeling, forest resilience bond
 - Partners are engaging with the community on upcoming work
 - Hope to launch resilience bond in 2024
- Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority
 - Informal process of local agencies getting together – first meeting on January 19

- Thanks to Chelan County PUD – working with CMI to move into the 3rd floor of the CTC, worked to make space on the 2nd floor for 20 employees that urgently needed space
- Radar Gap Update
 - Visited Washington DC this fall and met with the National Weather Service
 - Great meeting
 - The quickest way to get coverage is through private companies who collect data, which the NWS then purchases and uses; working with Senator Cantwell on funding
- Chelan Waterline Project
 - Thanks to Rep. Steele for funding for the water line to the Chelan airport; water line is under design
 - Chelan airport will become a regional facility
- Land Availability Discussion
 - 85% of land in Chelan County is owned by the federal and state governments
 - Port needs industrial-zoned properties to bring in more industry
- Chelan County PUD
 - Service Center Update
 - Great grand opening event in October with ~1500 attendees
 - Putting the finishing touches on the buildings in the back, which will house about 100 staff moving in over the next few months
 - Clean Energy Expo – December 14 @ Wenatchee Convention Center
 - More information is on the PUD website; three sessions for various audiences

Insights From the Mayors

- Bob Goedde, Chelan, appreciated the opportunity to participate in these meetings
- Carl Florea, Leavenworth, thanks to legislators for their support of affordable housing programs
- Mike Poirer, Wenatchee Mayor-Elect, thanks to PUD for support of Pybus grant application for EV fast chargers
 - Council member Adkinson is new city council member
 - Looking forward to determining how we can partner on initiatives in the future
 - Low-barrier shelter should open in December

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.

<hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> <p>Vice President</p> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-top: 20px;"/> <p>Commissioner</p>	<div style="text-align: right;">  <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-top: 5px;"/> <p>President</p> </div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;">  <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-top: 5px;"/> <p>Secretary</p> </div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;">  <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-top: 5px;"/> <p>Commissioner</p> </div>
---	--