



WASCO COUNTY UTILITIES COORDINATING COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

August 21, 2024

8:34 a.m.

Attendance

Jennifer Lindsey, Wasco Electric Cooperative
Dale McCabe, City of The Dalles Public Works
Geoffrey Lacefield, Northern Wasco PUD
John Buckley, Hood River UCC
Jacob Bohince, CSWD

Jacob Gilbertson, NW Natural
Weslee Cyphers, The Dalles Irrigation District
Aaron Westfall, NW Natural Gas
Fred Schatz, CSWD

President Weslee Cyphers called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. from Cousins Restaurant.

Minutes

After review by the attending council, consensus was reached and the minutes from the July 24, 2024, meeting were approved as amended.

Report of Officers

President, Weslee Cyphers

- None reported.

Vice President, Brewster Whitmire (absent)

President-Elect, Jesse Adams (absent)

Treasurer, Arthur Smith (absent)

Ending balance of \$411.38 as of August 19, 2024, was reported to Secretary, Jennifer Lindsey via email with the following account details:

- Checks for \$250 to Wasco County Fair and \$607.67 to Cousin's Restaurant have cleared account
- A service fee of \$6.00 has been assessed.
- No other outstanding checks or payables to be reported

Recording Secretary, Jennifer Lindsey

- None reported.

Unfinished business

- None reported.

New Business

- Aaron Westfall, NW Natural Gas provided information on the Get Ready September 25, 2024, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., at Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue, 1400 West 8th St., The Dalles. This event is open to the community.

Follow-Up

- John Buckley provided updates regarding the Hood River Council meeting that will be held on September 5, 2024:
 - Location has been changed to Ixtapa Restaurant in Hood River from 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. (2827 Cascade Avenue)
 - Key Bank: monies transferred to Oregon Treasury due to lack of activity in past 5 years. John is working through the process to possibly reinstate funds.
 - Wicks Emmett – John working with them; depending on if the HRUCC reinstates if any papers will be filed.
- Fred Schatz stated that it is challenging to gain momentum/excitement to build back the HR Council. He suggested possibly a larger Columbia Gorge Council vs. operating the HR Council independently. Open to thoughts on incorporating with other areas.
- Jacob Gilbertson suggested reaching out to building contacts
 - Creating a QR Code with a list of contact information for councils to access; this could lead to the development of relationships.
 - Seeing more locates coming in from out-of-state contractors
 - There was a discussion at the recent State meeting for insurance companies to add a clause that states the insured must follow Call Before You Dig laws
 - If you see companies from out of the state, let Jacob know and he will reach out to them and provide introductions/information.
 - Please reach out to John Buckley, johnr.buckley1954@gmail.com to RSVP or if you know of anyone interested in attending.
 - Jacob Gilbertson will be sending an email to respective contractors/utilities in the Hood River area regarding this event.

Damages

Aaron Westfall / Jacob Gilbertson - NW Natural Gas reported that Roto Rooter caused damage earlier this month in White Salmon, WA. Jacob stated that he provided onsite training.

Round Table

Aaron Westfall, NW Natural

- Maintenance Work

Weslee Cyphers, The Dalles Irrigation District

- Power poles in area were hit by lightening Saturday, August 17; repairs were completed August 20 by NWPUD
- Prepping for the off season

Geoffrey Lacefield, Norther Wasco PUD

- Moody Road project moving forward; currently out for bid; tentative start date is mid-October

Dale McCabe – City of The Dalles Public Works

- 6th Street widening between Snipes & Hostetler - starting soon; will be out to bid this fall, contractor to begin work Spring 2025.
- 12th Street – between Thompson & Richmond moving forward with plans – sidewalk and storm project
- 2nd & Webber Street utility project – wrapping up (new storm and sanitary sewer)
- 13th & Short Street project - / crews in that area.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 a.m. Thank you to everyone who was in attendance. **The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 18, 2024,** beginning at 8:30 a.m., and will be held at Cousin's Restaurant in The Dalles in the Banquet/Meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Lindsey

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Recording Secretary