



## WASCO COUNTY UTILITIES COORDINATING COUNCIL

### MEETING MINUTES

May 15, 2024

8:33 a.m.

#### Attendance:

Jennifer Lindsey – Wasco Electric Cooperative  
Greg Jensen – Crestline Construction  
Dale McCabe - City of The Dalles Public Works  
Scott Gallegos – One Call Concepts / OUCC  
Greg Jensen – Crestline Construction  
Brewster Whitmire – Wasco Electric Cooperative

Alyssa Shoaf – Wasco Electric Cooperative  
Arthur Smith – Wasco County Public Works  
Jacob Gilbertson – NW Natural  
Jesse Adams – Heath (NW Natural)  
Catherine Loke – Ajax, NW

Jacob Gilbertson called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. from the banquet room at Cousins Restaurant

#### Minutes:

After review by the attending council, consensus was reached and the minutes from the April 17, 2024, meeting were approved as submitted.

#### Report of Officers:

President, Weslee Cyphers – Absent

Vice President, Brewster Whitmire – None reported.

President Elect, Jesse Adams – None Reported.

Treasurer, Arthur Smith – Reported an ending balance of \$1,681.49, which included the cleared check in the amount of \$320.71 and the monthly service charge of \$6.00. Still outstanding are the expenses for the community clean up, not to exceed \$500.00. Dale McCabe will provide the receipts for those expenses to Arthur prior to the end of the meeting today.

Recording Secretary, Jennifer Lindsey – None reported

#### Unfinished business

None reported.

#### New Business

Jacob Gilbertson with NW Natural reported that access flow valves are being installed on services; this valve allows services to shut off if they are damaged.

Jacob Gilbertson and Jesse Adams stated that they manned the 811 trailer during the Cherry Festival and consensus was had that it was a well-attended event and swag was handed out to the public.

Dale McCabe with City of The Dalles reported that the Community Clean Up was a success.

### **New Business, continued**

Discussion was held regarding the possibility of merging The Dalles UCC with Hood River UCC and even possibly with White Salmon UCC. Suggestion was made to rename the councils to Columbia Gorge UCC. Scott Gallegos stated that each individual council can combine their funding and there is nothing holding us up from merging, if that is the route we wanted to go.

Arthur Smith wanted to remind those in attendance that this is something to consider, but keep in mind the other commitments we have and be sure we have the bandwidth before we commit to combining. He also noted that John Buckley has been trying to reestablish their council for some time and seems to be struggling.

Consensus was had to have members of the WCUCC reach out to utilities, contractors, and businesses in Hood River to see if they would be interested in attending our meeting in June, to see if they would be interested in resuming their council or merging councils.

Jesse Adams, Brewster Whitmire, and Jacob Gilbertson will work together on making contacts over the next few weeks to see if there is any interest for a meeting on June 18<sup>th</sup>, at Cousin's in The Dalles. Scott Gallegos will provide a presentation during the meeting.

### **Damages**

Jacob Gilbertson with NW Natural reported that damage was reported in The Dalles on 2<sup>nd</sup> and Webber Street and in Hood River on Dee Hwy.

Brewster Whitmire with Wasco Electric reported that a member of the public dug into a secondary, hit meter base; did not call in locates; no injuries occurred – incident occurred on a Saturday and was not reported until following Monday.

### **Round Table**

#### **Brewster Whitmire – Wasco Electric Cooperative**

- Pole replacements
- Upgrades – Wasco County Fairgrounds/Tygh Valley
- Camp Morrow
- Line rebuilds in Sherman County

#### **Catherine Loke – Ajax, NW**

- Projects – West end of The Dalles

#### **Arthur Smith – Wasco County Public Works**

- Chip sealing:
  - Old Moody Road (Deschutes Park) – Hwy 30 to end of the pavement
  - Skyline Road – Olney Road to the end of the pavement
  - Lower 8 Mile Road – 15 Mile to Emerson Loop
  - Carroll Road – State Road to Vensel Road
  - Huskey Road – State Road to the end of the pavement
  - State Road – 7 Mile Hill to Mosier Creek Road
  - 7 Mile Hill Road – Harvey Pit (County Pit) to State Road
  - Cherry Heights Road – Patton Drive to Wells Road
- Pavement patching

## Round Table, Continued

### Dale McCabe – City of The Dalles Public Works

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (2<sup>nd</sup> and Webber) Utility Project- new storm and sanitary sewer – under way; completion middle of June
- Still working on 10<sup>th</sup> street; Safe Routes to School Projects – finishing up design – Construction to begin summer 2025; there will be some NWPUD poles that will need to be relocated, will also contact NW Natural regarding the gas lines in that area.
- Sidewalk and storm project for surveying and design – Centurywest Company - Thompson/12<sup>th</sup> & Richmond – calling for locates – surveying has started - bidding next fall
- RBC – installing big fiber line down by river – Crates Way to Crates Way – currently working off of west 2<sup>nd</sup> street (google side before they go over to River Road portion)
- Sewer line on East 9<sup>th</sup> & Thompson; new water line
- Chip seal contract – June 10<sup>th</sup> – June 16<sup>th</sup>
- Design for upgrading sewer on 1<sup>st</sup> between Webber and cherry growers (quite a ways out) Locating on 1<sup>st</sup> Street & Webber with Public Works Dept for sewer project

### Jacob Gilbertson - NW Natural

- Speaking at the KSUCC meeting on June 20<sup>th</sup>

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:38 a.m. Thank you to everyone who was in attendance. The next meeting will be **Tuesday, June 18, 2024, beginning at 8:30 a.m.**, and will be held at **Cousin's Restaurant in The Dalles in the Banquet/Meeting room.**

There will not be a link to attend remotely for this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jennifer Lindsey*

Jennifer Lindsey

Recording Secretary