



Orcas Power & Light Cooperative
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, January 16, 2025

Streaming through Zoom attendees were Board members Vince Dauciunas, Brian Silverstein, Mark Madsen, Tom Osterman, Jerry Whitfield, Chuks Onwuneme and Wendy Hiester. Staff present were General Manager Foster Hildreth; Manager of Engineering and Operations Russell Guerry; Manager of Finance Travis Neal; Communications Manager Krista Bouchey; Communications Specialist Johanna Lange; and Special Projects Office Coordinator Beth Stanford (serving as recording secretary). Also present were Legal Counsel Joel Paisner, and consultant Jay Kimball.

Members in attendance: Barbara Pesola, Michael Riordan, Chris Wolfe and Heather Nicholson

Meeting commenced at 8:55 AM

Member Comment Period: Chris Wolfe, representing Rainshadow, advised that there were some residual effects from the December 25 outage on their solar customers. She will follow up with Russell. Michael Riordan discussed the Rate Study and encouraged the cost of service to correlate with usage. Heather Nicholson requested more open conversations at Tidal Workshops as well as dialogue with Tribal Nations.

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION was made by Silverstein, to accept the consent agenda, seconded by Osterman and passed unanimously by voice vote.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Bailer Hill Update: Staff shared details of their meetings with newly elected County Council members to discuss the increasing demand for reliable electricity due to government mandates, regional power shortages, and delays in renewable energy projects. OPALCO is facing challenges with land-use regulations, outdated zoning, and opposition to energy development in agricultural areas, delaying critical projects like the Bailer Hill microgrid. To address these issues, OPALCO is pausing permitting efforts and proposing an alternative site for the low-income solar portion of the project on Decatur Island, while surveying members to gauge support for future renewable energy initiatives. Discussion ensued.

Rate Discussion: Staff shared details of the kickoff meeting with E3 to outline our 2025 Cost of Service Analysis and Rate Design RFI. Discussion ensued.

Christmas Outage: The outage from December 25, 2024, on Lopez and briefly on Shaw and Orcas, was discussed.

REPORTS



Staff reviewed reports, dashboards, grant and budget tracking, ongoing cooperative-wide safety measures and training, and project updates including the delays with San Juan County involving the Bailer Hill Project.

Regular Session ended: 8:55 – 9:50 AM

Break: 9:50 AM – 10 AM

Executive Session: 10:00- 11:39 AM

Meeting Closed: 11:39 AM

Vince Dauciunas

Vince Dauciunas, President

Tom Osterman

Tom Osterman, Secretary-Treasurer

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