

Grays Harbor Joins Utilities for PUD Day on the Hill

The Grays Harbor PUD joined public utility districts from across the state in the Washington State Capitol Rotunda last Wednesday. As part of the annual PUD Day on the Hill, public utility commissioners and staff met with legislators, staff and lobbyists to talk about the importance of public power and its impact on Washington.

A relationship with local legislators is important to insuring that the interests of utility customers are represented in state policies. This year, that relationship led to \$450,000 in state funding for the East County Fiber Project, including PUD policies in the conversation on carbon legislation and bringing improved broadband fiber connections to more of rural Washington.



Above: Commissioner Dave Timmons mans the PUD booth at the State Capitol and (with Commissioner Russ Skolrood) meets with Sen. Dean Takko (below).



Commission Meeting Dates

Meetings are held in the Nichols Building, 220 Myrtle Street, Hoquiam.

March 2018

Monday - March 5
Monday - March 19

April 2018

Monday - April 9
(rescheduled from April 2)
Monday - April 23
(rescheduled from April 16)

Regular business meetings are scheduled to begin at 4:30 pm. A one hour workshop (3:30 to 4:30 pm) will precede each business meeting, unless otherwise noted. The public is welcome to attend all commission meetings, special meetings, workshops and public hearings. **Public comment periods are included at the open and close of every meeting.**

Commission meetings may be cancelled and special meetings may be scheduled. Please visit our website (www.ghpud.org) for updated information.

PUD to Provide Fiber Optic Connectivity to Montesano Schools

A fiber lease agreement will allow the Grays Harbor PUD to provide fiber optic connections to the Montesano School District, allowing for increased availability and options for high speed broadband and network services. Those benefiting from the agreement include Simpson Elementary, Beacon Elementary, Montesano Junior/Senior High School and the Transportation department.

"The Montesano School District will see improved availability of internet, communication services, and connectivity between the school district's facilities as a result of this agreement," said PUD Core Services Director Rob Hanny. "We are excited to be able to extend our fiber reach into East County and provide more options for our community."

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Commissioners Corner Dave Timmons, PUD District #2

Our Commissioner meeting on February 5 was held at the Satsop Business Park, during which we toured the Fuller Hill Development cannabis growing operation. This is not a field trip I thought I would ever go on when I started my career as a young police officer 44 years ago. In December 1969, I joined the United States Marine Corp. After boot camp and my MOS (Military Operational Specialty) training, I was assigned to a Helicopter Squadron, HMH 363. I made friends with many veterans of Vietnam. I listened to their stories about the war and I heard their stories about marijuana use by some of them while in Vietnam. I didn't know what marijuana was. Sounds silly now, but I didn't know. I got out of the USMC in December 1973 and in March 1974 I became a police officer. Marijuana was illegal and we made lots of arrests for possession of even very minor amounts. I was taught that marijuana was a gateway drug to using other narcotics. We all know the law was changed and marijuana use was legalized in Washington State. So it goes without saying, going to a commercial cannabis site was not something I would have seen in my future.

The operation is located in a large warehouse in the Satsop Business Park. Our guide for the tour was Jerry Derevyanny, General Counsel for Northwest Cannabis Solutions. Prior to entering the growing area you enter a small room with doors closed and sealed on both sides. You are given an air shower to blow any foreign material such as mites or other particles off you. You then enter a room and put on white coveralls, booties and a cap to cover your hair for those that have hair. They are very concerned about any outside contamination that could damage/infect their plants. The entire facility was very impressive. I had no idea of the science involved in what they are growing. In a nutshell I learned that there was a lot more to growing their crops than just planting the starter plants in dirt. And unlike all the recent illegal grows busted throughout Grays Harbor County, this cannabis growing operation pays taxes, provides benefits for their employees, and buys products from local businesses.

Looking around the Satsop Business Park you cannot help being impressed. The Port of Grays Harbor has done an amazing job marketing the park. New businesses like the Fuller Hill cannabis operation which are located at Satsop are beneficial to all of Grays Harbor County, including the PUD that sells them a steady, reliable supply of power. The PUD and Port have a great relationship and we are proud to work with them. We will do our best to help them continue to bring business to Grays Harbor County.



Lending a Helping Hand in the Community

Your PUD loves to support our community. Last month, Montesano Service Lineman Todd Plato joined volunteers at a work party at Vessey Field in Montesano, where he changed out the field lights in a PUD bucket truck. The PUD has donated the use of the truck for the past few years for Todd to complete the work. In recent years, the PUD has also done field light replacement work at Stewart Field in Aberdeen.



ENERGY, an informational newsletter, is published monthly for families and businesses energized by Grays Harbor PUD.

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