



LOS ALAMOS

County of Los Alamos

Minutes

Board of Public Utilities

1000 Central Avenue
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Robert Gibson, Chair; Eric Stromberg, Vice-chair
Matt Heavner, Charles Nakhleh and Jennifer Hollingsworth, Members
Philo Shelton, Ex Officio Member
Anne Laurent, Ex Officio Member
Suzie Havemann, Council Liaison

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

5:30 PM

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

Public Participation: in person or <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85828927209>.

1. CALL TO ORDER

This regular meeting of the Incorporated County of Los Alamos Board of Public Utilities was held on Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. Members of the public were notified of the ability to participate and provide public comment in-person or over Zoom.

The following board members were in attendance:

Present - 5: Members Gibson, Nakhleh, Heavner, Hollingsworth, and Shelton

Remote - 1: Members Stromberg

Absent - 1: Member Laurent

Others in attendance in Chambers:

Linda Matteson, Deputy County Manager

Thomas Wyman, Assistant County Attorney

Stephen Marez, Deputy Utility Manager - Electric Distribution

Clay Moseley, Deputy Utility Manager - GWS Services

Joann Gentry, Deputy Utility Manager - Finance & Administration

James Martinez, Senior Engineer

Cathy D'Anna Public Relations Manager

Dennis Astley, Electrical Engineering Manager

Richard Valerio, Business Operations Manager

Jedidiah Beddo, Information Management

Zoom participants:

Suzie Havemann, Council Vice Chair / BPU Liaison

David Reagor, Councilor

Melissa Dadzie, Chief Financial Officer

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for public comment on the Consent Agenda or those not otherwise included on the agenda. There was none.

No action was taken on this item.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Gibson asked that items 4.a., 4.c., and 4.e. be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered under Department Business. He then called for additional amendments to the agenda or a motion for approval.

Member Heavner moved and Member Hollingsworth seconded that the agenda be approved as amended.

The motion passed by the following vote:

YES - 5: Members Hollingsworth, Heavner, Nakhleh, Stromberg and Gibson

NO - 0:

3.a. [19592-25](#) Statement Regarding Closed Session

Chair Gibson called for discussion or a motion.

Member Heavner moved and Member Nakhleh seconded that the Board of Public Utilities approve the following statement for inclusion in the minutes: "The matters discussed in the closed sessions on May 7, 2025 were limited only to those topics specified in the notice of the closed session, and no action was taken on any matter during the closed session."

The motion passed by the following vote:

YES - 5: Members Hollingsworth, Heavner, Nakhleh, Stromberg and Gibson

NO - 0:

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Gibson called for amendments or a motion for approval.

Member Hollingsworth moved and Member Nakhleh seconded that the Board of Public Utilities approve the items on the Consent Agenda as amended and that the motions in the staff reports be included in the minutes for the record.

The motion passed by the following vote:

YES - 5: Members Hollingsworth, Heavner, Nakhleh, Stromberg and Gibson

NO - 0:

4.b. [19614-25b](#) Approval of Changes to the Department of Public Utilities Rules & Regulations - Fee Schedule

I move that the Board of Public Utilities approve the changes to the Department of Public Utilities Rules & Regulations - Fee Schedule as presented.

4.d. [19704-25a](#) Approval of Budget Revision 2025-64

I move that the Board of Public Utilities approve Budget Revision 2025-64 as presented and forward to Council for consideration.

5. PRESENTATIONS (None)

No action was taken on this item.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS (None)

No action was taken on this item.

7. DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

4.a. 19699-25 Approval of Board of Public Utilities Meeting Minutes for April 2025

Chair Gibson called for discussion or a motion for approval.

Member Gibson moved and Member Hollingsworth seconded that the Board of Public Utilities approve the the minutes of the April 2 and April 16, 2025 meetings as presented.

The motion passed by the following vote:

YES - 5: Members Hollingsworth, Heavner, Nakhleh, Stromberg and Gibson

NO - 0:

4.c. 19702-25b Approval of DOE/LAC Resource Pool Budget for Fiscal Years 2026 & 2027

Ms. Joann Gentry, Deputy Utility Manager - Finance & Administration and Mr. Ben Olbrich, Deputy Utility Manager - Power Supply presented at the May 7th BPU Work Session. They summarized the presentation, reviewed the handout and revised motion. Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the board. There were none. Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for public comment. There was none. He then called for discussion or a motion.

Member Nakhleh moved and Member Stromberg seconded that the Board of Public Utilities recommend approval of the 2026-27 Resource Pool budget as presented, with the understanding that the current Electric Coordination Agreement (ECA) approved in 1985 and modified 24 times since then, is expected to be replaced by an updated modern contemporaneous ECA, before the recently amended ECA extension ends on December 31, 2025, and that the 2026-2027 Resource Pool budget being recommended here is contingent and dependent upon the terms and conditions of the future ECA, which is unknown at this time, and which may require future amendment to the 2026-2027 Resource Pool budget that is recommended here, and I move to forward the 2026-2027 Resource Pool budget, as presented, to County Council for their review and approval.

The motion passed by the following vote:

YES - 5: Members Hollingsworth, Heavner, Nakhleh, Stromberg and Gibson

NO - 0:

4.e. 20044-25a Approval of Task Order No.5, AGR 22-18c for the Abiquiu Hydroelectric Plant Firewall and Office Project with GME General Building, LLC in the Amount of \$409,207.95 plus Applicable Gross Receipts Tax

Mr. James Alarid was absent and Mr. James Martinez, Senior Engineer presented in his place. Supporting documents were included in the meeting packet. Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for questions and comments from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Stromberg

2. Member Nakhleh
3. Member Hollingsworth
4. Mr. Shelton

Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the board. There were none. Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for public comment. There was none. He then called for discussion or a motion.

Member Heavner moved and Member Hollingsworth seconded that the Board of Public Utilities recommend the Award of Task Order No. AGR 22-18c, for the Abiquiu Hydroelectric Plant Firewall and Office Project to GME General Building, LLC with the base amount of \$355,833.00 and a contingency in the amount of \$53,375.95 for a total project amount of \$409,207.95 plus applicable gross receipts tax, and forward to County Council for approval.

The motion passed by the following vote:

YES - 5: Members Hollingsworth, Heavner, Nakhleh, Stromberg and Gibson

NO - 0:

8. BOARD BUSINESS

8.a. Chair's Report

Chair Gibson reported the following:

1. Council reappointed Member Stromberg to another five-year term to the BPU.
2. He had the opportunity to fly over both PV sites north of Farmington. He also saw the Abiquiu and El Vado lakes.

No action was taken on this item.

8.b. Board Member's Reports

Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for board members to report. There were no individual reports.

No action was taken on this item.

8.c. Utilities Manager's Report

Mr. Shelton reviewed his written report which is attached to the minutes. He provided summarized comments and Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments or questions from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Gibson

No action was taken on this item.

8.d. County Manager's Report

Ms. Linda Matteson, Deputy County Manager presented for Ms. Laurent, who was absent. She reported that:

1. Summer Concert Series begins on Friday, May 23 and bus service will be extended.
2. Ice Rink permanent chiller has been delivered.
3. There is a new Procurement Portal which will help expand vendor outreach and encourage greater competition for public contracts.

Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Hollingsworth

No action was taken on this item.

8.e. Council Liaison's Report

Vice Chair Havemann provided updates on the May 20 Council meeting. Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments or questions from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Stromberg

No action was taken on this item.

8.f. Environmental Sustainability Board Liaison's Report

The ESB Liaison was absent so Chair Gibson provided updates from the meeting that he attended on May 8. He reported that Ms. Shannon Blair and Ms. Sue Barnes will share the BPU Liaison duties. He also reported that a pilot energy savings project is in progress for the Muni Bldg. HVAC system.

No action was taken on this item.

8.g. General Board Business

8.g.1. [20207-25](#) BPU Educational Opportunity: UAMPS Annual Member Conference - August 17-19, 2025

Chair Gibson introduced the topic. He opened the floor for board discussion and questions. The board decided to defer possible action until the June 25th regular meeting.

No action was taken on this item.

8.h. Board Expenses (None)

No action was taken on this item.

9. STATUS REPORTS

[19700-25](#) Status Reports for April 2025

Mr. Shelton, Utilities Manager reviewed the reports. Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for questions or comments from the board. The following members spoke:

1. Member Stromberg
2. Mr. Marez

No action was taken on this item.

10. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Gibson reviewed the upcoming agenda items. Members discussed their availability for a Closed Session in June. and decided upon June 25, starting at 7:00 p.m. Chair Gibson then provided an opportunity for questions or comments from the board and staff: There were none.

No action was taken on this item.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

No action was taken on this item.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

APPROVAL

Board of Public Utilities Chair

Date Approved by the Board

Minutes transcribed by: Kathy Casados, Executive Assistant

ATTACHMENTS

(in agenda order)

8.c. Utilities Manager's Report 4/16/25

**Utilities Manager's Report
May 21, 2025**

1. For Elk Ridge, Yes Communities has received two bids to construct a new gas distribution system. They are in the process of reviewing and awarding a bid and will schedule a coordination meeting early in June. DPU will need to upgrade all the gas meters as part of this renewal project that is budgeted in the CIP fund.
2. DPU has filled a few positions. We have a new senior office specialist and next week we have a power system operator-apprentice, a data analyst, and four engineering interns starting. The data analyst will not only help with billing, but she will also help with DPU's conservation program. Held interviews for an engineering associate for EP/ED, utility locator technician, billing and service specialist, and another power system operator and these positions are still at various stages of the recruitment process.
3. The pilot alternate work schedule for Day Light Savings Time period has been implemented with four ten-hour days. The DPU crews working under this pilot work schedule are GWS, wastewater treatment, and hydroelectric crews.
4. For the Ski Hill Waterline, the rock trenching equipment has proven to be very effective in trenching up the mountain. The rock trenching for Phase I is due to be completed by the end of next week. Given the mobilization costs and the opportunity to be ahead of schedule, DPU is working on a change order to add the trenching required for the Phase II waterline that will still stay within the approved budget for Phase I, because of less rock excavation quantities needed in Phase I quantities and these savings can be applied to continue the trenching needed for the full project. Both the State and Forest Service are supportive of expediting this work. Finally, the FEMA RFI is still under review for undergrounding the electric line to Ski Hill and Camp May.
5. Ben and I attended Energy Community Alliance (ECA) forum on "Moving New Nuclear Projects Forward". There is still positive movement for nuclear energy. David Wright, chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), reported that there are four active projects under review and a total of 22 different projects on their radar. He said that the NRC is committed to timely reviews. NuScale is anticipated to receive their uprate approval to 77 MW in June. The other projects are Terra Power, Long Mott Energy, and Kairos Power. Kairos Power has a salt production facility in Albuquerque.

6. Attended this month's abbreviated remote UAMPS board meeting and have no project updates. UAMPS is considering a different membership model called an "All Requirements Membership" as UAMPS increases their resource portfolio, Integrated Resource Planning, aggregated load forecasting, power scheduling, and participation in EDAM. Presently, DPU pays for the basic membership of \$620/year plus pays for the Resource Project Membership that pursues new resources like the geothermal projects at \$15,529 per year and then pays for any project development costs if we subscribe to a project.
7. 1898/Burns and MacDonald have been coordinating with Stantec on the fleet conversion study. DPU currently has four EV's in its fleet and in the FY 2026 budget proposed two more vehicle replacements with EV's. The Municipal Building's six new level 2 chargers are on order and Public Works is seeking on-call contract task order prices to install them, including building one of these chargers to meet ADA requirements. At PCS, DPU installed a charging station that is RFID activated that is not open to the public to charge the two vehicles housed at this site.
8. Attended a few meetings with EMNRD on the state's climate action plan, grid resiliency, and on a couple of grant programs to be released later this summer on Grid Resiliency that the EA-4 Power line replacement may qualify for funding.
9. Foxtail Flats LLC environmental documents are actively under review with the Tribal Historical Preservation Office, however, a firm timeline to complete this review has not been provided.
10. Drought conditions still exist. I was notified that the San Juan Chama Project anticipates only delivering half the allotment to its members. The Rio Chama Acequia Association will purchase any project water that LAC gets allotted this year and it is estimated to be about 600 Acre-Feet. The hydroelectric generation is also down with El Vado at 0 MW and Abiqui at 5 MW