

**Update with PUD**

**February 8, 2021**

**2:53 p.m.**

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, Chris Roden, Willie Painter

Guests: Frank Corbin, Edna Fund

Recorder: Tammy Martin

Willie Painter said Lewis County PUD received \$120,000 in .09 funds that set up LCPUD with necessary documentation to apply for construction / grant funding. They are in process of creating a power substation in Winlock. This substation will potentially provide for power to business in the Benaroya project area. The substation would need to provide load requirements and infrastructure to provide power for growth.

Chris Roden said that Lewis County was helpful in allocating CARES funding in the amount of \$163,000. That funding was used to provide direct relief to those experiencing hardship. Chris said 795 customers were behind \$483,170. These people experiencing hardships would have faced shutoff of power if there hadn't been relief funds available. Willie Painter said the most recent negotiations for the next stimulus looks promising. LCPUD is hoping for more relief funding, and additional funding would be allocated towards low income housing.

Chris Roden said that House Bill 1336 would offer full unrestricted communications and Senate Bill 6383 includes restrictions that could offer concerns for PUD's efforts to get service for underserved residents.

Willie Painter said LCPUD recently applied for USDA grant to install broadband capabilities from Chehalis to Adna and there are several other broadband grants at the state and federal level to be applied for. They did not receive the grant from the Public Works Board.

Chris provided an update on where LCPUD stands with a data-sharing agreement between Lewis County and PUD. He said Lewis County and PUD have been working to get an arrangement in sharing GIS systems.

Meeting ended 3:16 p.m.