

Celebrating 10 Years of Public Power



Jefferson County

April 2023
Newsletter

In 2008 the citizens of Jefferson County voted to allow our small PUD to get into the power business. Citizens campaigned that a publicly owned, locally controlled PUD could better provide our county with reliable and affordable power than a for-profit corporation. The campaign, with the slogan “local jobs, local power, and local control” was victorious despite being outspent by a factor of 6:1.

This was the first challenge of many. It took years of negotiations and many long commission meetings before the PUD was able to complete the purchase of the electric system and begin providing 96% carbon-free electricity to the citizens of Jefferson County on April 1st, 2013.

Unsurprisingly, transforming a small utility with 8 employees into a power utility with more than 50 employees came with growing pains. Billing software designed for water utilities proved incompatible with the rigorous reporting federal agency requirements leading to several years of failed financial audits.

Changes at the commissioner level and changes

in management at the staff level have transformed the PUD to where we are today.

The organization is more professional and more capable. We routinely pass our financial audits and our decision-making, as well as our budget process, is open and transparent. And the PUD has been successful in bringing millions of dollars in state and federal funds to invest in local broadband, water, and electric infrastructure.

Our PUD has grown and transformed dramatically in the past 10 years. We are tackling tough infrastructure challenges such as sewer for the tri-area and high-speed broadband for the whole county.

I look forward to the next 10 years and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.



Jeff Randall
District 1
jrandall@jeffpud.org

Publicly Owned and Powered by the Sun!

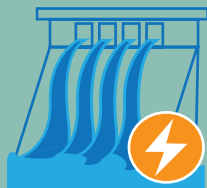
Like so many of our customers, the PUD is going solar. In time for our 10th anniversary of being in the power business, our first ever large scale panel installation is underway at our operations and customer service center at 310 Four Corners Road.

The 100kW solar array was funded in part by a \$100K grant from WA state, and was installed by PT-based Cascadia Solar. It is expected to provide up to 63% of our headquarter's electricity needs on an annual basis.



A HISTORY OF JEFFERSON COUNTY PUD

1931-RCW 54 went into effect allowing creation of publicly owned utilities.



1937-Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) was formed to market & distribute Columbia River power generation.



1941-Jefferson County residents voted to form a water utility service. Formation sat "idle" for more than 40 years.

1981-Gardiner LUD 1 began active water service. Limited Utility Districts can be for water, sewer or fiber services.

2008-Approval to seek PSE grid purchase made the ballot.



2010-Agreement between JPUD & PSE transferring ownership of local electric grid for \$113M. First private-to-public transfer in WA in 60 years.



April 1, 2013-Jefferson PUD No.1 begins active electrical service.

2019-Kevin Streett named GM.

2020-Expansion of the Four Corners headquarter facility.

2023-Become retail broadband provider.



Building Resiliency for Future Growth

Ken Collins
District 2
kcollins@jeffpud.org

The biggest challenge that the PUD has faced since 2013 is bringing an aging electrical infrastructure up to contemporary standards.

To achieve this goal, the PUD has been building a fiber optic network to electronically link remote switching apparatus called "reclosers", back to the PUD. This kind of configuration is called a "SCADA" system, meaning Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition. This allows the PUD to

The advantage of the money staying in Jefferson County is enormous for the community at large.

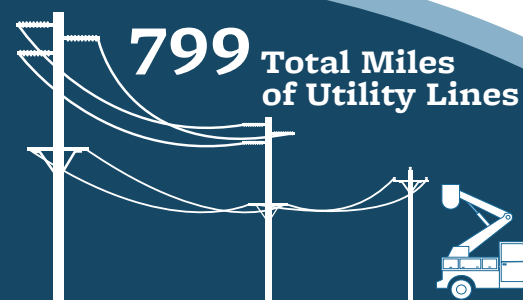
-Ken Collins

use a computer at the office to cut power and isolate problem areas rather than sending a crew out to cut

the power and limit the number of customers affected by fallen branches or other problems.

Another component of system modernization is replacement of our aging electrical meters with AMI meters. An AMI system enables the PUD to remotely cut or restore power instantly, again avoiding the cost of sending out a truck and technician, while providing customers with precise information about how much power is being used at any particular time. Making the system more efficient and resilient requires millions of dollars but in the long run will reduce outages and save money.

We have seen big changes to the PUD over the years and, moving forward, the community will continue to benefit from the utility decisions happening today.



Workforce & Customer Owners are Key

Dan Toepper
District 3
dtoepper@jeffpud.org

As JPUD marks the first 10 years of supplying energy to Jefferson County as a customer owned utility, we turn our focus to ensuring that the next ten years of accomplishments exceed those first 10 years.

Today's economic landscape of shortages, inflation, rising interest rates and possible recessionary trends will test our attempts at success.

Within the utility we must determine how we can cut costs, identify efficiencies and plan prudently to offer superior

The #1 thing about being locally owned is that the public has a direct access right to the organization."

-Dan Toepper

services while striving to deliver them at a reasonable cost.

The costs and availability of procuring a talented workforce and retaining experienced workers will be as challenging and expensive as obtaining the materials and equipment that it will require to keep our electric grid, water/wastewater systems and broadband network dependable, affordable, and sustainable.

The employees within the utility will be our greatest resources and key to the future success of our PUD. We also rely on the collaboration of local businesses and the backing of our customer owners in the community to support and utilize the services we provide.

Together, we can make the next decade a success for JPUD and our community.

From the Beginning

Journeyman Linemen Dylan Brackney and Line Crew Foreman Eric Tharaldsen have been with the PUD since the day PSE handed over the keys 10 years ago. In fact, only 2 days separate their decade of work together.

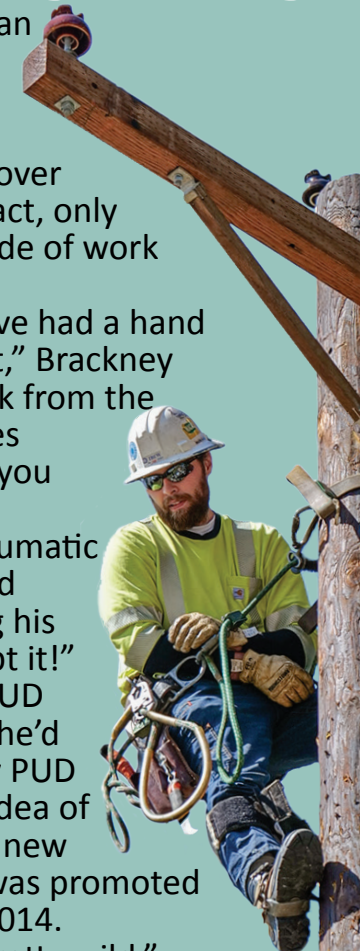
"At this point, I think we've had a hand in every part of the district," Brackney said as he takes a step back from the idling line truck and glances down the road. "What do you think, Eric?"

Tharaldsen secures a pneumatic compactor to the truck bed and steps around, nodding his approval. "I wouldn't doubt it!"

Tharaldsen came to the PUD from Port Angeles, where he'd worked for Clallam County PUD for 24 years. He liked the idea of being a part of getting the new utility off the ground. He was promoted to Line Crew Foreman in 2014.

"Those early days were pretty wild," Brackney said, recalling line trucks stuffed with roll upon roll of paper electrical schematics left to the fledgling line crew. Finding a simple underground line meant deciphering decades old hand-drawn plans, often in the dark. Each outage call often turned once familiar territory into a new challenge.

Brackney grew up in Quilcene. He graduated from Quilcene High in 2010. Despite his age, he'd been paying attention to the news about the PUD's efforts to purchase the local power system and bring



See Beginning on back page

20,606 Total Customers
10,861 Total Pole Count



Beginning continued...

back the line crew and customer service jobs that had been outsourced before.

He decided to enroll in a year-long line school to gain a foundation for work in the electrical field. Upon completion, he returned home and soon joined the PUD as a line helper.

"The coursework gives you a good base, but it's the hands-on, day-to-day work experience with the crew that gets you up to speed, fast," he said.

"Nothing can really prepare you for work on those larger outages, honestly," he laughed. "Caffeine and the crew keep you motivated on those long days and nights." Line by line, hour by hour line crews press on until every customer is re-energized.

Brackney became a Journeyman in 2017. The journey has provided a new perspective on the place he'd grown up, he said.

"It really is rewarding supporting the community, making a good living and working with a great team," he said.



Journeyman Lineman Dylan Brackney (left) and Line Crew Foreman, Eric Tharaldsen.

Mission & Growth

OUR MISSION

Connecting our Community.

To better the lives of our community through the delivery of water, sewer, electric, and broadband services each and every day.

OUR VISION

Provide outstanding value and leadership within our community.

Rebate Savings

*2015-21 **\$3,351,110**

Wages Paid

*2015-21 **\$26,454,203**

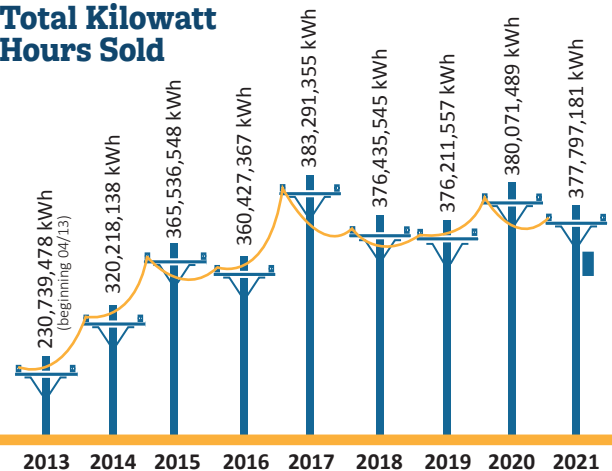
New Customers

1,349 New Services
since 2013

Infrastructure Investments

*2015-21 **\$27,363,185**

Total Kilowatt Hours Sold



Remembering Wayne King

In late-February, longtime former District 3 Commissioner Wayne King passed away at the age of 81 after a battle with cancer.

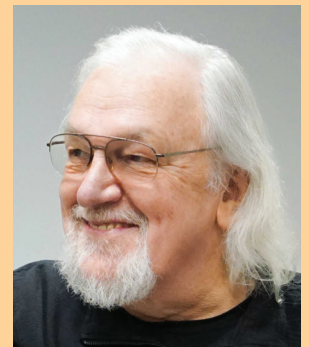
King served for 18 years, beginning in 2000, and was a key figure in the PUD's expansion and growth. He was on the commission during the PUD's acquisition of the Quimper Water System, the extension of water service to Marrowstone Island, and the heroic push to become a public power provider.

As a commissioner, King worked for modernization of the PUDs aging infrastructure

with efforts to begin advanced meter buildout. His efforts help lay the groundwork for PUD broadband with the goal of expanding fiber internet service to rural residents.

"Wayne was a big driver in getting us to where we are today," said Kevin Streett, PUD General Manager, "he will be deeply missed."

King is survived by his wife and two daughters.



Wayne King