

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF ORCAS POWER & LIGHT COOPERATIVE

The 76th Annual Meeting of the members of Orcas Power and Light Cooperative was called to order by President Chris Thomerson at 9:45 a.m. **May 4, 2013** aboard the M/V Elwha.

A quorum was met, with 231 members in attendance and 347 attendees.

Thomerson welcomed members and guests, and introduced the current Board of Directors: District 1 Vince Dauciunas and George Mulligan; District 2 Winnie Adams and Thomerson; District 3 Bob Myhr and James Lett; District 4 John Bogert. Guests welcomed included Stuart Clarke, BPA Senior Account Executive who has been attending for at least eighteen years and will retire in three months. Also acknowledged were Walt Wilson, General Pacific sales representative; Jess Case, Oldcastle sale representative, former director Ed Marble; and recent OPALCO retiree Ginny Reagles.

Thomerson introduced the Parliamentarian Brad Cattle, from the law firm of Anderson Hunter; Doug Pearson as Tally Committee Chair; and Dennis McKinney, Sergeant at Arms.

A motion was made and seconded to waive the reading of the Official Notice of the Meeting; motion carried. A motion was then made and seconded to waive the reading of the Minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting; motion carried.

Board candidates from District 3 (Lopez, Decatur, Center and Charles Islands) were introduced and included Michael Karp, Jim Lett, Bob Myhr, and Dwight Lewis. Candidate Jerrold Gonce was not in attendance. District 4 (Shaw, Bell, Canoe and Crane Islands) candidate and incumbent John Bogert was introduced.

After giving members time to mark their ballots, Thomerson declared registration and balloting closed for this annual meeting.

Thomerson then spoke of the achievements OPALCO has earned this past year including a national award for our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary website and the front cover of the NWPPA *Bulletin's* April 2013 issue.

The focus now will be on the next 75 years as the limits of hydroelectric resources become apparent, presenting new challenges and new opportunities. Forty-four local renewable energy producers generate a capacity of 244.72 kW. Five hundred members received energy efficiency rebates of \$264,470 representing 985,603 kWh saved.

“My Usage” will be introduced in the next month giving members utilizing “ebill” the ability to access graphs that show their own energy usage by hour, day, month or year.

OPALCO's proposed Broadband plan should be a complete technical solution to the county's needs. The plan provides a platform for emergency responder communications, mobile internet coverage in population centers and ferry landings, and enables cell providers the possibility of increasing their geographic coverage. The plan is costly and poses a significant financial challenge to our cooperative—it will take a majority of OPALCO members to pre-subscribe to the service and support the plan. Meanwhile management and the Board continue working to find the best, most affordable solution to the broadband problem. Meetings will begin in June to give members more information and hear feedback about the Broadband Initiative.

Thomerson closed in saying that electricity is the clean, low cost, energy of choice; using it or switching to it makes good sense; using it efficiently makes super good sense.

The third annual Nouridine Jensen Scholarship Awards were presented to Maya Kidwell-Burt of Orcas Island High School; Bree Swanson of Lopez High School and Brodie Miller of Spring Street International School. Each student will receive a \$500 scholarship and a week at the Youth Rally Leadership Camp at the College of Idaho this summer.

Acting General Manager Foster Hildreth thanked everyone for attending and acknowledged The Galley Catering as well as the captain and crew of the Elwha. Hildreth noted that “The Next Chapter” remains to be written for OPALCO but that technology will play an important role. Reflecting back on 2012 it was noted that the Board approved \$628,000 in capital credit payments, replaced 76 distribution transformers with new more efficient models; replaced 4.2

miles of aging underground cable; installed new protective relays and power monitoring equipment in substations and installed fiber optic conduit whenever there was an open ditch for other work.

Hildreth encouraged participation in Project PAL, helping members with their power bills by "rounding up" their energy payment.

In closing, Hildreth stated that together we will write OPALCO's next chapter as it belongs to the members, stating "we truly do get our power from you".

Thomerson announced the six members whose absentee ballots were drawn to win a \$50 credit on their utility bill: Mick Foster, San Juan Island; Andre Hirss, Lopez Island; Brian Hurley, Orcas Island; D.N. Kinsey, Orcas Island; Warren Odegard, Decatur Island; and Michael Shaffer, Shaw Island.

Tally Committee Chairman Doug Pearson announced the following voting results for District 3:

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Absentee</b>	<b>Annual Meeting</b>
Jerry Gonce	<b>440</b>	427	13
Michael Karp	<b>974</b>	951	23
Jim Lett	<b>1,188</b>	1162	26
Dwight Lewis	<b>728</b>	714	14
Bob Myhr	<b>1,499</b>	1462	37


And District 4:

John Bogert	<b>1,856</b>	1811	45
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A total of 2,593 ballots were cast. Thomerson thanked all of the candidates for running.

Randy Cornelius, General Manager entertained questions from the floor with the assistance of Foster Hildreth.

There being no further business, Thomerson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m. Door prizes were then awarded.

  
Chris Thomerson, President

John Bogert, Secretary-Treasurer