

IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

MINUTES OF DECISION MEETING

March 17th, 2026 – 1:30 p.m.

In attendance was Commissioner Edward Lodge and Commissioner Dayn Hardie. Commissioner John R. Hammond, Jr. was absent. Commissioner Lodge called the meeting to order.

The first order of business was the **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING** on March 12th, 2026. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes as written.

The next order of business was **CONSENT AGENDA:**

2. Action Item: Erika K. Melanson’s March 17, 2026, Decision Memorandum re: In the Matter of Clearwater Power Company’s Application for Approval of the Company’s 2026 Idaho Wildfire Mitigation Plan; Case No. CO1-E-26-01.

3. Action Item: Erika K. Melanson’s March 17, 2026, Decision Memorandum re: In the Matter of Rocky Mountain Power’s Application for Authorization to Update the Wind and Solar Integration Rate for Small Power Generation Qualifying Facilities; Case No. PAC-E-26-01.

4. Action Item: Michael Eldred’s March 17, 2026, Decision Memorandum re: In the Matter of Capitol Water Corporation’s Application to Change Its Schedule No. 3 – Purchased Power Adjustment; Case No. CAP-W-25-03.

5. Action Item: Michael Ott’s March 17, 2026, Decision Memorandum re: In the Matter of Capitol Water Corporation’s Application to Increase Its Rates and Charges for Water Service in the State of Idaho; Case No. CAP-W-25-02.

Commissioner Lodge made a motion to approve Staff’s recommendations for Items 2 through 5 under the Consent Agenda. A vote was taken on the motion, and it carried unanimously.

The next order of business was **MATTERS IN PROGRESS:**

6. Action Item: Allison Moore’s March 17, 2026, Decision Memorandum re: 2025 Idaho Telecommunications Relay Service (ITRS) Annual Report; Case No. GNR-T-26-02.

Ms. Moore presented the memorandum regarding the annual Idaho Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) report was filed with the Commission on February 17, 2026. The TRS program, established in 1992, supports individuals with hearing and speech impairments. Funding for the program is derived from a monthly assessment of \$0.07 per local exchange carrier access line and \$0.001 per intrastate long-distance minute. Wireless and VoIP providers do not contribute to the fund.

The 2025 TRS report included a review of the prior year’s budget, a proposed 2026 budget, and funding options. Staff noted a slight decrease of approximately 0.04% in total TRS minutes used in 2025, with

increases in speech-to-speech and Spanish-language calls. There were also 47 fewer contributing local exchange access lines compared to previous years.

The TRS fund received approximately \$138,000 in revenue during 2025 and ended the year with a balance slightly above \$46,000. The administrator estimates that the 2026 program budget will be about \$124,000 and recommends retaining the current assessment levels, concluding that the fund should remain fully funded with a positive year-end balance for 2026.

Commissioners and staff discussed the administrator's recommendations, including clarification regarding "zero activity" reports filed by 83 companies, which Staff confirmed were submitted by carriers with no customers, local access lines, or long-distance minutes.

Commissioner Hardie made a motion to maintain the existing contribution rates of \$0.07 per access line per month and \$0.001 per intrastate long-distance minute, accept the administrator's annual report, and adopt the administrator's proposed 2026 budget. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Action Item: Allison Moore's March 17, 2026, Decision Memorandum re: Generic Telephone – Idaho Telecommunications Service Assistance Program (ITSAP) 2025 Annual Report; Case No. GNR-T-26-03.

Ms. Moore presented the memorandum regarding the administrator of the Idaho Telecommunications Service Assistance Program (ITSAP) 2025 annual report and the 2026 fund recommendations filed with the Commission on February 17, 2026. ITSAP provides eligible customers with a reduced cost for basic residential local exchange telephone service. The program is funded through a surcharge applied to all business, residential, and wireless end-user lines that do not receive the ITSAP credit.

For 2025, telecommunications companies reported a total of slightly more than 24 million access-line counts (reflecting monthly line totals across residential, business, and wireless services). ITSAP served just over 60,000 eligible participants and distributed approximately \$205,000 in assistance credits, company administrative expenses, and administrator fees. The fund ended 2025 with a balance of slightly more than \$1.4 million.

The administrator expects participation levels and expenses in 2026 to remain consistent with 2025. The annual report presented two options for the surcharge: (1) Suspend the surcharge due to the high fund balance and slight decline in participation. A similar suspension occurred in 2017 and lasted until 2023 when the fund balance fell. (2) Reduce the surcharge to one cent per line, which would result in an estimated year-end 2026 balance of approximately \$1.6 million.

Both the administrator and Staff recommended suspending the surcharge until next year's filing, when the fund's status can be reassessed.

During discussion, Staff clarified that the reported 24 million access-line figure reflects total monthly line counts (i.e., one access line counted each month). Commissioners agreed that the fund is financially healthy and that temporarily halting collections is reasonable.

Commissioner Hardie made a motion to accept the administrator's recommendation to suspend the per-access-line surcharge, accept the ITSAP administrator's annual report, and adopt the administrator's proposed 2026 budget. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

The next order of business was **FULLY SUBMITTED MATTERS:**

8. Deliberation re: In the Matter of the Investigation Into Bear Claw Water System, LLC's Rates and Charges for Service; Case No. BCW-W-25-02 [Erika K. Melanson, Attorney].

9. Deliberation re: In the Matter of Eaton Fiber Idaho, LLC's Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Provide Resold and Facilities-Based Exchange Telecommunications Services; Case No. EFI-T-25-01 [Erika K. Melanson, Attorney].

10. Deliberation re: In the Matter of Idaho Power Company's Application for Approval of the Company's 2026 Wildfire Mitigation Plan; Case No. IPC-E-25-32 [Erika K. Melanson, Attorney].

Commissioner Lodge stated that Items 8 through 10 under Fully Submitted Matters would be deliberated privately.

Commissioner Lodge stated there was no further business before the Commission and the meeting was adjourned.



COMMISSION SECRETARY

03/24/2025

DATE OF APPROVAL