

PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT NO. 2 OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
**VERDANT HEALTH COMMISSION**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Special Meeting**

**Hybrid: In-Person at Verdant Community Wellness Center and via Zoom**

**February 9, 2023**

**5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.**

**Commissioners Present**

Jim Distelhorst, MD, President  
Karianna Wilson, Commissioner  
Carolyn Brennan, Commissioner  
Deana Knutsen, Commissioner  
Bob Knowles, Commissioner

**Staff**

Dr. Lisa Edwards, Superintendent  
Riene Simpson, Director of Finance  
Monika Star, Wellness Center Assistant  
Kaysi Kelly, Executive Assistant/Office Manager

**Guests**

Matt Ellsworth, AWPHD  
Howard Thomas, Thomas & Associates  
Brad Berg, Foster Pepper

**Call to Order**

The special meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Public Hospital District No. 2, Snohomish County, was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by President Distelhorst.

**Land and Enslaved People's Acknowledgement**

President Distelhorst read the acknowledgement.

**PHD Community Contributions: Matt Ellsworth, Executive Director, AWPHD**

Mr. Ellsworth, AWPHD, provided a historical context of Verdant as a Public Hospital District (PHD) and how it compares to other PHDs. Verdant has a unique model as they do not currently run a hospital. One of its challenges is that the community may not understand Verdant is a hospital district and thinks instead it is a charitable foundation. He continued that Verdant has an extraordinary model for community giving, outside of also being a PHD. The impact of Verdant's dollars given is incredible.

Commissioner Brennan asked if Mr. Ellsworth had any suggestions for how Verdant can change its public image so people better understand how we are structured and what we can and cannot do.

- Ms. Ellsworth answered that other PHDs have found success in clearing up this confusion by consistently referring to themselves as a "community owned organization" or "community owned hospital district." He recommends for those Commissioners who live within Verdant's service district to check how their property tax

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bill shows Verdant/PHD#2 to understand how the public might see you on their tax bill.

Commissioner Brennan asked Mr. Ellsworth if he had suggestions on how to show the public that Verdant's Commissioners are elected.

- Mr. Ellsworth suggested to consistently refer to Commissioners as "elected officials" or "elected Commissioners."

President Distelhorst thanked Mr. Ellsworth for his time and for coordinating the Public Hospital District group meetings to encourage collaboration and information sharing among hospital districts.

**Executive Session**

President Distelhorst moved the meeting into executive session at 5:17 p.m. to review and consider proposed sale of real estate and to evaluate the performance of a public employee. Executive session will end at 6:55 p.m. and no action will be taken during this time.

Executive session was extended to 7:00 p.m.

**Open Session**

President Distelhorst returned the meeting back to open session at 7:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m. by President Distelhorst.

**ATTEST BY:**

DocuSigned by:  
*JSDistelhorst*  
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President

DocuSigned by:  
*Karianna Wilson*  
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Secretary