

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD  
REGULAR SESSION  
MCKENZIE FIRE & RESCUE TRAINING CENTER  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2014  
5:15 P.M.

Commissioners Present: John Brown, President; Steve Mital, Vice President; John Simpson, Dick Helgeson and James Manning

Others Present: Mel Damewood, Roger Kline, Harvey Hall, Richard Jeffryes, Frank Lawson, Mark Zinniker, Todd Simmons, Steve Newcomb, Lance Robertson, Nancy Toth, Karl Morgenstern, Mike McCann and Taryn Johnson of the EWEB staff.

President Brown convened the Regular Session of the Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) at 5:15 p.m. and welcomed all the residents and members of the community and provided a brief update on the format of this evening's meeting.

### **AGENDA CHECK**

Commissioner Simpson requested to add a brief item on the agenda to discuss the Board Calendar Report after item 3 on the agenda.

### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

The Consent Calendar was moved by Commissioner Manning, seconded by Commissioner Helgeson, to be approved in its entirety. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

### **BOARD CALENDAR REPORT**

Commissioner Simpson requested clarity on the item listed on the Board Calendar Report "Storm Recovery Efforts Update" under items that may be added to future Board Agendas. Commissioner Simpson requested a backgrounder to a future agenda to address big picture recovery updates going forward.

President Brown polled the board on their interest of having a backgrounder on a future agenda.

The Board agreed they want staff to prepare a backgrounder for correspondence to address big picture recovery updates at a future meeting, and not agenda the item at this time.

### **MCKENZIE RIVER TOPICS**

Mel Damewood, Engineering Manager, Richard Jeffryes, Senior Engineer, and Frank Lawson, acting in charge Power & Strategic Planning Manager are available this evening to discuss upcoming changes to EWEB's electric distribution system in the McKenzie River Valley.

Mike McCann, Hydro License Implementation Project Manager, shared information about relicensing Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric Project plan over the 5-years and is available for questions.

Mark Zinniker, Generation Engineering Supervisor, available to address activities and projects associated with the Leaburg-Waltermville Hydroelectric Project and information on the roll gate repair, park dam safety plan and cell phone automatic emergency notification.

Karl Morgenstern, Environmental Supervisor, discussed EWEB's water quality efforts including the new Voluntary Incentive Program which will be rolled out as a pilot project to 16 land owners in 2015, emergency response to spill and EWEB's water quality monitoring program. Mr. Morgenstern is also available this evening for questions.

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

**Jamon Kent**, Waltermville Pond and enhancement of remaining ponds with partnering with a Federal Program, United Front. Mr. Kent provided Commissioner Simpson with some information on the United Front program listing the programs priorities. The priorities will be lobbied at congress in Washington D.C.

**Charles Tannenbaum**, expressed concern with the existing automobile in the McKenzie River as a source of concern to the quality of the river. If the vehicle became dislodged and moved down the river it would become a hazard. Mr. Tannenbaum asked for EWEB's concern with the vehicle of the river and what plan does EWEB have to mitigate this concern.

**David Jensen**, Riverwater is a book, beautiful researched and photograph of this McKenzie Valley. EWEB is mentioned frequently within the book mentioning its responsibility to the river as a steward of the river. Mr. Jensen asked that we work with other governmental agencies to help solve the problem of removing the vehicle from the McKenzie River. He to shared concerns regarding the car dislodging and moving down river and the potential hazards.

**Will Rutherford**, expressed his appreciation to Joe Harwood, John Lay, Dan Dziggel and his crew to complete the structural posts at Cedar Flats which completes a project that expands from Cedar Flats to McKenzie Bridge. Mr. Rutherford expressed concern about the automobile in the river; it does not belong and has been there since May 12. The McKenzie ClearWater Coalition is attempting to generate concern. Mr. Rutherford shared his testimony in entirety with the Board.

**Terry Littschwager**, urged EWEB to re-do the speed-control set up on Leaburg Dam. Mr. Littschwager requested that EWEB use the standard, accepted by traffic engineering practices for speed control, and would best be done by consulting a professional traffic engineer. He provided additional information to the Board of Commissioners.

**Rob Frazier**, thanked and congratulated everyone including EWEB to encourage power consumption. Mr. Frazier asked each commissioner to justify how you can ask customers to

engage in a process to reduce energy consumption but penalize when we achieve that goal by raising our rates.

President Brown closed the public forum.

Commissioner Manning thanked everyone for coming out this evening and continuing the dialogue. There are no simple solutions but rest assured that the Board is listening and have further communications about the concerns discussed this evening.

Commissioner Simpson echoed sentiments about thanking the public for coming out this evening. Commissioner Simpson is the community at large, as an extension to the river valley and you are welcome to contact him directly. Commissioner Simpson attempted to answer Mr. Frazier's question addressed this evening.

Commissioner Helgeson shares concerns about the car in the river and have discussed this at previous meetings. Commissioner Helgeson did share that EWEB has no jurisdictional power but supports a partnership and will look to staff to define EWEB's role in helping remove the car from the river. He expressed how proud the utility is of its conservation program; over the past 25 years the investments made have saved the utility 50 megawatts. The principal reason for the rate increases over the last 4-5 years is the substantial change in the wholesale market, secondary market and changes due to the recession.

Vice President Mital, will spend time getting up to speed on the Walterville pond improvements. He shared that they could have no stronger advocate then our current President to being a steward of the river. In addition wants to get more educated on the speed-humps. He looks forward to the continued discussions.

President Brown is very familiar with United Fronts and will look into the resources to get involved in the program. He advocated his concern for the vehicle in the river and insured that EWEB is very proactive in being a steward to the river. Unfortunately we do not have jurisdiction to get the vehicle out of the river but will continue to do whatever we can to get the vehicle out of the river.

President Brown adjourned the Regular Session at 6:05 p.m.

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Assistant Secretary

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President