



MEMORANDUM

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Rely on us.

TO: Commissioners Farmer, Brown, Cassidy, Cunningham and Ernst
FROM: Lance Robertson, Public Affairs Manager
DATE: Sept. 8, 2009
SUBJECT: Goodpasture Bridge Lighting Project

EWEB staff has been in periodic contact with supporters of the Goodpasture Bridge Lighting Project, which aims to install permanent lights on the historic covered bridge that crosses the McKenzie River just upstream from Leaburg Lake. Supporters of the project, which include members of the McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce's Tourism Committee, have been working with the State Historic Preservation Office, the Lane County Board of Commissioners, Lane County Public Works, the Oregon Department of Transportation and other entities to obtain the necessary permits and other permissions that may be required to install lighting on a public and historic bridge.

The project, as currently envisioned, would install five light fixtures on each side of the bridge. No hole drilling in timbers would be allowed, and the fixtures would be mounted from the inside of the bridge and under the overhanging eaves.

For many years, EWEB has donated time and money to temporarily install seasonal lights on the bridge during the holidays (the Leaburg Dam bridge also is lighted annually). The current customer account at the plug-in point on the bridge is the McKenzie River Chamber of Commerce, according to our database. EWEB provides a donation to pay for the consumption cost of the holiday lights.

Project supporters have asked EWEB whether there are any technical or electrical issues that might hinder the project from moving forward. At this point, EWEB sees no major hurdles that would prevent supporters from obtaining permanent electric service from EWEB. There appears to be sufficient existing power to accommodate the addition of 10 lights on the bridge, although EWEB has not seen any diagrams or drawings from supporters. However, EWEB has indicated to supporters that they likely will need to hire a private electrician to reconfigure or rewire the electric service at the point of the EWEB service drop at a nearby power pole, to accommodate the permanent lighting. The service would become a full-time, metered account in which a monthly electric bill is generated.

EWEB staff has not taken any position in support or opposition to the lighting project. EWEB also has not committed to any financial support or in-kind donation above the annual holiday lighting effort. As with any customer seeking to establish service or reconfigure an existing service, EWEB is prepared to assist project supporters should they eventually receive the necessary approvals and wish to establish a permanent, metered electric service to illuminate the bridge.

Options/Board Action

No action is required. This is an informational item.