

Advisers ready to take first step in creating a future for EWEB site

By Susan Palmer, The Register-Guard, Published: July 9, 2008

The team that will help shape the future of a parcel of downtown riverfront property over the next several years begins meeting this week.

The nine members of the Riverfront Master Plan Community Advisory Team — many with real estate or business backgrounds — will gather on Thursday to start discussion that will lead to a development plan for Eugene Water & Electric Board property next to the utility's headquarters along the Willamette River.

EWEB is moving its operations building, vehicle shops, warehouse and storage yard to the corner of Roosevelt Boulevard and Belt Line Road, and will finance the move and facility construction in part with the sale and development of the 12 to 14 acres adjacent to its headquarters, project manager Mark Oberle said.

The team will meet twice a month for the next 12 to 18 months and during that period will hold four forums to gather public comment. All of the group's meetings will be open to the public.

Eventually, the team will make its recommendations to EWEB commissioners, who will submit a final plan to the Eugene City Council.

EWEB commissioners selected five team members, and the City Council chose the other four.

The first meeting is on Thursday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at EWEB's North Building training center, 500 E. Fourth Ave.