

**EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD  
REGULAR SESSION  
EWEB BOARD ROOM  
500 EAST 4TH AVENUE  
March 5, 2019  
5:30 P.M.**

*Commissioners may pose questions to staff prior to the scheduled board meeting. To view Commissioners' pre-meeting questions and staff responses, visit <http://www.eweb.org/about-us/board-of-commissioners/2019-board-agendas-and-minutes>.*

**Commissioners Present:** Sonya Carlson, President; Steve Mital, Vice President; John Brown, Dick Helgeson, Mindy Schlossberg, Commissioners

**Others Present:** Frank Lawson, General Manager; Mel Damewood, Chief Water Engineering & Operations Officer; Sue Fahey, Assistant General Manager & Chief Financial Officer; Deborah Hart, Financial Services Manager; Anne Kah, Executive Assistant to the EWEB Board; Larry Longworth, Dispatch Supervisor; Wally McCullough, Water Engineering Supervisor; Scott Mehlbrech, Acting Line Supervisor; Rod Price, Chief Electric Engineering & Operations Officer

President Carlson called the Regular Session to order at 5:31 p.m.

**Agenda Check**

Commissioner Helgeson noticed there was no space on the Agenda set aside to talk about the possible undergrounding of utility infrastructure on South Willamette Street, so he offered that he would say a few words on that subject after Public Input, and during Correspondence & Board Agendas.

Mr. Lawson asked for the Board's leeway for staff giving a brief presentation and update on EWEB's response to the recent snowstorm.

The Board gave its consensus for a storm update from staff.

**Items from Board Members and General Manager**

- Commissioner Brown announced that two weeks ago, he presented in front of the Springfield Utility Board (SUB) on the subject of water treatment plant collaboration. He said the presentation was well-received. Commissioner Brown said he had also recently given a presentation to the Springfield City Council Legislative Committee on HB 2020. Lastly, he expressed concern about the spring rush of salmon that would not be able to access the fish ladder at Leaburg Dam due to low water levels.
- Vice President Mital offered that several months ago, a former minutes recorder working with EWEB gave testimony about her mother receiving low-income support

from the utility, which resulted in EWEB making changes to that support system. He said that he saw this person recently, and she said she was able to sign her mother up for EWEB's low-income support program very easily, and she was very thankful. Vice President Mital said that he and Commissioner Schlossberg had recently attended the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference and it was very informative.

- President Carlson thanked staff for their hard work and diligence during and after the snowstorm. She offered that she had recently attended a Steam Plant Open House, including a virtual tour which the event organizers said they would be happy to bring before the Board in a short presentation before the start of a Board meeting; she said, since the other Commissioners seemed interested, she would like staff to contact the organizers and set that up in the future. President Carlson reported that she had recently spent a couple of days in D.C. advocating for public power. She said that she asked all the government officials and staff she met with to sign onto a Bill appealing the FCC ruling that has been affecting local control.
- Commissioner Helgeson thanked staff for their hard work and diligence during and after the snowstorm. He reported that he participated on the Northwest Public Power Association's (NWPPA) interview team in Portland, at which he made a recommendation for the selection of NWPPA's new Executive Director.
- Commissioner Schlossberg thanked staff for their hard work and diligence during and after the snowstorm. She also stated that she was looking forward to discussing next steps following the joint meeting between the EWEB Board of Commissioners and Eugene City Council.
- Mr. Lawson assured Commissioner Brown that he and staff would make and compile notes on the fish hatchery, and the Leaburg Dam's impact on salmon runs. He introduced: Mr. Price, Ms. Fahey, Mr. Longworth, and Mr. Mehlbrech, who gave a brief situational update and PowerPoint presentation on the restoration efforts during and after the snowstorm.

Commissioner Helgeson wondered how many individual work orders were involved in restoration efforts.

Mr. Price replied that staff was still compiling all the storm restoration statistics, and he hoped to bring those back completed to the Board in April.

### **Public Input**

**Tana Shepard** of Eugene, and representing 4J School District, thanked EWEB for funding the education partnership with 4J, and she said the Turbine Workshop was piloting this week for the first time. Ms. Shepard announced the 2019 Solar Challenge would take place on June first.

**Brinda Narayan-Wold** of Eugene, and McCornack Elementary School, shared her appreciation for EWEB working with McCornack Elementary, and specifically, for working with the McCornack Has Heart Campaign, a program at that school which collects donations to go to low-income McCornack families who need heating help in the winter months.

**Robin Bloomgarden** of Eugene said she was disappointed by factors missing from the E3 (Energy Environmental Economics) study. She said, in the E3 report, the support for homeowners installing their own solar as backup energy generation was lacking. Ms. Bloomgarden expressed unhappiness at the E3's failure to mention EWEB reaching capacity by building on top of already-built environments.

**Katie Glenn** of the upriver community was frustrated that a lot of upriver homes had their electricity tied to their water, so in the event of an extended power outage, like that experienced during the recent snowstorm, those people would lose both water and electricity. She said the lack of communication by EWEB to the upriver community during and after the storm event was disheartening. Ms. Glenn concluded that the upriver community wanted to be treated as an equal with Eugene.

**Eben Foder** of Eugene spoke in favor of undergrounding power on South Willamette Street as a way for the utility to invest in modernization, reliability, public safety, and the beauty of the area's major transportation corridors. He urged EWEB to take action as soon as possible--even at tonight's meeting if they could. Mr. Foder was afraid if EWEB did not act immediately, they would lose the chance to bury the utility infrastructure on that four-block stretch of South Willamette.

**Victor Oddivak** of Eugene thanked EWEB for their restoration efforts during and after the recent snowstorm. He also spoke in favor of undergrounding power on South Willamette Street. Mr. Oddivak reminded those present that a City Resolution was passed in 1987, which stated all the power lines in Eugene must be undergrounded. He also spoke against investing money in smart meters and 5G.

**Randy Prince** of Eugene spoke in favor of undergrounding power on South Willamette Street. He offered that EWEB had a great opportunity with this potential project to modernize the City of Eugene, and, by undergrounding the energy utilities, make it safer for pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

Commissioner Helgeson said he would like to set aside time in the near future for further Board discussion on EWEB's undergrounding policy as per the potential undergrounding project on South Willamette. He said that voting on this issue at this meeting would run counter to EWEB's longstanding policies, and practices of the Board. Commissioner Helgeson concluded that he did not believe--if the Board was to vote on this issue at this meeting--the votes would be there to move this project forward at this time.

President Carlson thanked Ms. Shepard and Ms. Narayan-Wold for offering EWEB updates on how the programs at their schools are doing, and for inviting Board members to attend events at the schools. She said that, to her knowledge, utility infrastructure could not be buried directly beneath where it exists now on South Willamette, because of the configuration beneath South Willamette.

Mr. Lawson clarified that any South Willamette undergrounding, would actually be undergrounded at a different, adjacent location.

President Carlson thanked Ms. Glenn for coming down to fill the Board in on storm restoration activities (or lack thereof) in the upriver community.

### **Approval of Consent Calendar**

#### **MINUTES**

1. a. February 5, 2019 Regular Session

#### **CONTRACTS**

2. **Tyndale Company Inc.** - for Fire Retardant Apparel. \$650,000 (over 5 years).

#### **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS**

3. **United States Geological Survey (USGS)** - for water quality monitoring and analysis services for Source Water Protection. \$161,500, resulting cumulative total \$229,889.

#### **RESOLUTIONS**

4. **Resolution No. 1905** - Authorizing the General Manager to enter into a settlement agreement with the Cascade Natural Gas Corporation and Pacificorp for the remediation and long term maintenance of the former Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP) located on EWEB property.

5. **Resolution No. 1906** - Addition of Joint Use Charges and Fees to Customer Service Policy.

6. **Resolution No. 1907** - Dark Fiber Lease Price Revision.

7. **Resolution No. 1909** - Joint Use of EWEB Facilities for Telecommunications.

***Commissioner Brown moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.***

#### **Items Removed From Consent Calendar**

None.

### **Second Water Treatment Plant - Situational Update**

Mr. Damewood, Ms. Hart, and Mr. McCullough offered the Board a situational update and PowerPoint presentation on the second water treatment plant.

Commissioner Brown asked if EWEB could build a second water treatment plant on the acquired land.

Mr. McCullough said there would be land use hurdles to overcome on the property in question.

Mr. Damewood offered that of the five years EWEB has set aside for the project's completion, three of those years would be dedicated to the land use issues.

Commissioner Brown asked if, in the event of an emergency, the wells owned by EWEB in North Eugene could be brought online.

Mr. Damewood replied those wells had no pumping apparatuses and they had substantial interference with both Rainbow Water District and SUB. He added that EWEB could only remove approximately 2-4 million gallons a day from them.

Mr. Lawson offered that it was the aforementioned land use issues which had informed EWEB's decision to defer this project. He stressed the importance of EWEB creating as many options as possible for itself.

Vice President Mital inquired into the EWEB's Permit on the Willamette requiring completion of construction of the second plant by 2033.

Mr. McCullough said it was a requirement expressed on EWEB's Willamette permit. He added that there may be options to extend the 2033 completion date if necessary.

Vice President Mital said he preferred to continue pursuing the partnership opportunity with SUB, and delay any immediate action on this project.

Commissioner Schlossberg asked how much water capacity EWEB had currently for emergency situations.

Mr. Damewood said that current emergency water capacity was approximately five to six days in winter, and less than 24 hours in summer.

Commissioner Helgeson asked if this project was included in EWEB's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP); he also asked if the projected startup date of the project was around 2023.

Mr. Damewood returned that--if deferred--EWEB would most likely schedule the project to begin in 2023-25 for purposes of the Financial Plan and the CIP.

President Carlson asked if current Hayden Bridge technologies could be retrofitted with new technology to combat the cyanotoxin threat.

Mr. McCullough replied that was possible, although it could potentially be a financial issue for the utility, as it would cost approximately \$30 million.

Commissioner Brown asked what should be done about the aforementioned land use in the meantime.

Mr. Lawson answered that he believed there was still some open issues surrounding the Miranda case that needed to be addressed.

### **Break**

President Carlson called for a break at 7:01 p.m. The meeting resumed at 7:11 p.m.

### **General Manager's Annual Performance Evaluation for 2018**

President Carlson praised Mr. Lawson for his work and the work of staff in general.

Mr. Lawson thanked President Carlson and the Board for their kind words, and he offered that an organization's General Manager was only as good as the organization itself. He thanked the Board and EWEB staff for their hard work and dedication to the utility and the community it serves.

### **Potential Next Steps for Collaboration with City of Eugene**

Commissioner Schlossberg offered that the joint meeting with Eugene City Council went great, and was a good first step; she wanted to know what was next for that relationship. Commissioner Schlossberg added that she would be happy to be an EWEB Board-appointed liaison to the City of Eugene.

Commissioner Mital clarified that he would want to limit the role to climate related issues, rather than designating a liaison between the two organizations broadly, as the latter should largely be done by the Board President.

***Commissioner Helgeson moved to designate Commissioner Schlossberg as EWEB's designated liaison to the Eugene City Council regarding follow up on our discussions with them last month. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.***

### **Correspondence and Board Agendas**

Mr. Lawson offered the Board a report on Correspondence and Board Agendas.

Commissioner Helgeson indicated that he would like to further explore the question of undergrounding on Willamette Street, and hopes other Board members are willing to schedule time to have that conversation.

Mr. Lawson acknowledged head nods from the Board in favor of holding the proposed conversation. He stressed the importance of the timing of that discussion, recommending that it occur in the context of reviewing the strategic plan and the capital plan. He stressed the importance of prioritizing where reliability and aesthetics fit into EWEB's strategy.

Commissioner Schlossberg voiced that undergrounding the utilities on Willamette would encompass more than just aesthetics. She added that she wants to make sure the Board looks at it more broadly.

Vice President Mital concurred with Commissioner Helgeson. He posited the value statement is the budget. He went on to say that EWEB will continue to prioritize resiliency and safety, but that's not to say there could not be some budget allocation at a significantly smaller level, to deal with things that don't make it into the capital improvement plan as priorities, but perhaps do make it in for aesthetic concerns.

### **Board Wrap Up**

Ms. Kah said they had settled on the date of May 23, 2019 for the float trip with Helfrich Outfitters. She added that in her correspondence with Helfrich Outfitters, there were some logistics questions raised. Ms. Kah offered to send an email to Commissioners with those questions.

Vice President Mital said that during the recent snowstorm, he noticed many traffic signal lights in Eugene were not functioning; he wondered why, because he was under the impression there was emergency power supplies to run such things in the city.

Mr. Price returned that the City has portable generators and was probably having problems finding places to set up said emergency power generators.

President Carlson stressed the importance of EWEB's dedication to the upriver community. She wondered if there was any further help the utility could offer that community to help them deal with storm aftermath.

Mr. Lawson said he agreed with the decisions EWEB made during and after the snowstorm as per restoration efforts. He said he would continue to review post-storm reports to find places the utility could improve during the next storm event.

### **Adjourn**

President Carlson adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.