

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD
REGULAR SESSION
500 E 4th AVENUE
April 7, 2020
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/2020board-agendas-and-minutes>.

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

Others Present: Frank Lawson, General Manager, Julie McGaughey, Chief Customer Officer; Rod Price, Chief Engineering & Operations Officer; Susan Ackerman, Chief Energy Officer; Lena Kostopulos, Chief Human Resources Officer; Deborah Hart, Chief Financial Officer

President Mital called the Regular Session to order at 5:30 p.m.

Agenda Check

There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

Items from Commissioners and General Manager

Commissioner Brown reported that he and Mr. Lawson had met with Springfield Utility Board (SUB) General Manager Jeff Nelson, and SUB Board President John DeWenter on April 1, at which they discussed the current situation in Glenwood. He also complimented EWEB for their response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as the utility helped governmental agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the Army Corps of Engineers (COE).

Commissioner Carlson applauded EWEB for quickly putting together a plan to help individual ratepayers and businesses in Eugene during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Commissioner Helgeson reported that he had recently attended a Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA) meeting in Reno, Nevada. He thanked the utility for their work to maintain continuity of service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

President Mital announced the postponement of EWEB General Manager's evaluation until the May Board meeting, but the written evaluations are due to EWEB Chief Human Resources Officer, Lena Kostopulos by April 16, 2020. He also reminded Commissioners that the mandatory Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGE) form was due April 15, 2020. President Mital thanked Anne Kah and Holly Shugart for setting up the teleconference meeting.

Vice President Schlossberg echoed the gratitude of her colleagues for the great work EWEB staff had been doing since the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Governor's Stay Home, Save Lives Executive Order.

Mr. Lawson thanked EWEB staff for their hard work and dedication; in particular he thanked the Information Services team for facilitating telecommuting, which, since the advent of COVID-19, has been crucial as far as inter-utility communication. He offered that based on current river flow and snowpack levels, EWEB would be going to a low-flow scenario at the Walterville project site this summer.

Public Input

There was no Public Input spoken during the meeting.

**Written testimony provided by Mr. Jim Ball is provided as an attachment to the April 7, 2020 minutes.*

Approval of Consent Calendar

MINUTES

1. March 3, 2020 Regular Session

CONTRACTS

2. Basler Electric - for purchase of two exciter systems. \$350,000.
3. Black & Veatch - contract amendment for engineering services for the Carmen-Smith project. \$2,000,000 (resulting cumulative total \$8,000,000).
4. CVE Technologies, Presidio, and CDW-G - for the use of cooperative contracts for hardware, software, and support. \$15,000,000 (over 5 years).
5. Kleinschmidt Associates - for engineering related services for the Leaburg siphon alternatives analysis. \$216,000.
6. Lucan Landscaping Inc. - for field mowing services. \$470,000 (estimated over 5-year period).
7. West Lane Tree Service, LLC and Wright Tree Service, Inc. - for utility line clearance services. \$20,000,000 (estimated over 5-year period).

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS

8. City of Eugene - for expenditures covering a five-year period through an existing IGA for valve box adjustments. \$300,000.

RESOLUTIONS

9. Resolutions for the Appointment of Treasure & Assistant Treasurer and Financial Depositories:
 - a. Resolution No. 2013 - Appointment of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.
 - b. Resolution No. 2014 - Update to EWEB signatories for Trust and Custodial Depositories.
 - c. Resolution No. 2015 - Update to EWEB Signatories for Oregon Depository Accounts.
 - d. Resolution No. 2016 - Update to EWEB Signatories for Operational Depositories.

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

Items removed from the Consent Calendar

None.

COVID-19 Situational Update and Commissioner Q&A

Mr. Lawson, Ms. McGaughey, Mr. Price, Ms. Ackerman, Ms. Kostopulos, and Ms. Hart offered the Board a situational update on the COVID-19 pandemic.

Commissioner Brown asked about how the timing of the College Hill project might have changed due to the epidemic, and he also inquired into the demands on April 1, 2020.

On the College Hill project, Mr. Lawson offered that the design work that needs to take place will most likely still be moving forward, however, some of the public outreach aspects of the project would likely be delayed.

On the April 1 demand question, Ms. McGaughey spoke about the EWEB Customer Care Program (ECC); she said EWEB was assuming the 100 spots for said program reserved for senior and disabled EWEB ratepayers would be filled quickly. She said if that assumption held true, the utility would be paying out roughly \$260,000 for the month of April. Finally, Ms. McGaughey offered the “loss of job” qualifier for the ECC program had been added to the program’s language recently.

Commissioner Helgeson wondered if the ECC program was open to those working as independent contractors, or who were otherwise self-employed.

Mr. Lawson offered if EWEB were to expand its ECC program, staff would have to bring a budget amendment before the Board for that purpose.

Ms. McGaughey mentioned the Energy Share program for those in crisis who are not able to participate in the ECC program.

Vice President Schlossberg asked what would happen to EWEB projects which were already in the works as the pandemic began.

Mr. Lawson said many EWEB projects were moving forward, and offered the May Board meeting would include a First Quarter Report, which would describe the utility’s activity as per Vice President Schlossberg’s question in more detail.

President Mital wondered if some of EWEB’s critical capital work originally scheduled for the spring/summer of 2020 would be postponed.

Mr. Lawson responded staff had been working very hard on project prioritization since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Price added that many of the EWEB projects on hold right now, were projects that were interdependent on other contractors and subcontractors.

Commissioner Carlson asked if there were any salient supply-chain issues caused by the pandemic.

Mr. Lawson replied the utility was fairly comfortable with long-term supplies, but there existed some challenges with supplies associated with cleaning, hygiene, and personal protective equipment (PPE).

Commissioner Brown asked if the Leaburg analysis project was still on schedule.

Mr. Lawson said the Leaburg project would be remaining on schedule, and further discussion and a progress update on that project was on the June Board meeting agenda.

Commissioner Carlson asked about the contract EWEB currently had in place with the entity doing cleaning/disinfecting work for the utility.

Mr. Lawson said the company doing EWEB's cleaning currently, was not the normal service employed by the utility, but an outfit that was specifically chosen as COVID-19 response.

President Mital asked if those EWEB employees working from home who needed to access sensitive materials from an EWEB server, would be required to do so using a Virtual Private Network (VPN).

Mr. Lawson said yes. He said EWEB was not sacrificing cybersecurity due to the uptick in telecommuting work.

Correspondence & Board Agendas

Mr. Lawson offered the Board a report on correspondence and Board agendas.

Board Wrap Up

Commissioner Brown asked if the Solar Challenge originally scheduled for May 30, 2020 would be postponed.

Mr. Lawson said although he did not know that for sure, it was a safe assumption, given that School District 4J had already canceled all upcoming extracurricular activities.

Adjourn

President Mital adjourned the Regular Session at 6:35 p.m.

Assistant Secretary

President

April 7, 2020 – Public Testimony

My name is Jim Ball. I've been a Eugene resident and EWEB customer for over 40 years. I'm a little late, but I would like to thank you for 40 years of reliable and affordable water and electricity. I've had a lot of time to think about this since Kate Brown issued the stay-at-home order. Now more than ever I realize that my well-being depends on your work.

While staying at home I have been reading Robert Bryce's new book: *A Question of Power - Electricity and the Wealth of Nations*. This book makes it very clear that we can't take reliable and affordable electricity for granted - three hundred million people don't have it. It only continues if smart, dedicated people make informed decisions about our future.

Those decisions are about to get more difficult, because Eugene's climate action plan is based on the assumption that EWEB can supply much larger amounts of electrical energy for cars and buildings without increasing the carbon intensity of that electricity. And our community goals also include equity and resilience - which requires that electricity continues to be affordable and reliable. I'm concerned that it may not be possible to satisfy everyone's expectations regarding these goals.

I am pleased that the Board has directed staff to develop and publish an Electrification Impact Analysis Report. It will help us make the necessary compromises and trade-offs. It would have been better if the City Council had requested this analysis before they voted on the Climate Recovery Ordinance, but we can backtrack if necessary.

Are the goals we have set achievable? Please give us a report that answers that question.

Jim Ball
Eugene