



The following questions have been posed by Commissioners prior to the scheduled Board Meeting on September 7, 2021. Staff responses are included below and are sorted by Agenda topic.

**McKenzie Watershed Recovery & Restoration Plan (KELLEY/MORGENSTERN)** - When McKenzie River Trust/EWEB acquire properties where homes were destroyed in the floodway, how are the property owners compensated? Do we consider that rebuilding in the floodway isn't an option, or do we give them the benefit of the doubt? And if so, who makes that decision?

**RESPONSE:** What we have heard from Lane County is that if a landowner wishes to rebuild in their same footprint regardless of if they are in the floodway or not, they can get permitted to do that. Therefore, we are assuming they have the right to rebuild when we purchase. McKenzie River Trust (MRT) can only pay appraised value and nothing higher so that is the price ceiling. MRT appeals to the landowner about conservation values and giving back something to MRT to drive down the price the landowner is willing to accept.

#### **Quarterly Strategic & Operational Report**

##### **Electric System Reliability (KELLEY/NICE)**

Tree Trimming Diagram: What does PCOP stand for?

**RESPONSE:** "Potential Customer Outages Prevented", are the number of customers along the path of the trimmed lines. Our reliability metrics are based on outage minutes and frequency per customer, so the PCOP helps give an idea about how valuable our vegetation programs are related to maintaining electric reliability.

##### **Electric Distribution/Customer Connections (KELLEY/NICE)**

Is there an explanation on why response times to inquiries and plan reviews etc. have increased 60-80%? (See page 16 of report.)

**RESPONSE:** The cause is twofold: increase in customer requests over historical, and staffing shortage (currently down two Tech III's; one Tech IV). Human Resources is staging for a compensation assessment for this job family to ensure competitiveness and actions to facilitate increased recruiting.

##### **Energy & Water Conservations and Bill Assistance Programs (MCGAUGHEY/KELLEHER)**

If the solar PV incentive budget is 100% committed for the year, does that mean we don't approve new projects or that some citizens won't get their incentive? What is the main driver of hitting yearly budget in Q2?

**RESPONSE:** We continue to approve PV projects regardless of incentive. If we are out of budget for the annual period, projects will not receive an incentive. The customer will know if there is an incentive available before they commit to the project in the present year. Solar incentives are funded solely by voluntary Greenpower contributions, and it is not unusual to run out of incentive funding prior to the end of the year.

##### **Water Treatment Effectiveness/Finished Water Production Diagram (KELLEY)**

It appears that the current production is above the maximum production. Why is that or how should we interpret that diagram? "Maximum" in this case means "5 year maximum", or the highest over the past five years. The warmer and drier than normal conditions have increased water production/consumption this late

*spring and summer to the highest in the past 5 years, although we are still well below maximum production capacity.*

**Appendix G – Community Investment Report/Leaburg Canal Property Grant Match under EWEB’s Healthy Farms Clean Water Program (KELLEY/FRICKE) - Why would we help fund a nutrient management control project trying to reduce nutrients into the Leaburg Canal if it is non-operational and it may not be operational in the future?**

***RESPONSE:*** *This funding went towards a livestock waste composting and runoff prevention project to help protect water quality in the canal through our Source Protection Team’s Healthy Farms Clean Water Program. The project started a couple of years ago and funding came from grants, landowner contributions, SWCD in-kind, and EWEB match. In our Healthy Farms Clean Water Program, we have funds allocated to projects that are protective of water quality and ones in which willing landowners pay a portion. Even if the Canal is used only as a stormwater conveyance, it will continue to flow into the McKenzie River and impact downstream water quality. In fact, with reduced flows there is an even higher chance of adverse quality, especially from nutrients that are a food source for Harmful Algae Blooms.*