



MEMORANDUM

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD



TO: Commissioners Carlson, Barofsky, McRae, Schlossberg, and Brown
FROM: Anne Kah, Administrative Services Manager; Frank Lawson, CEO & General Manager
DATE: February 1, 2023 (February 7, 2023 Board Meeting)
SUBJECT: McKenzie Valley Meeting Planning
OBJECTIVE: Discussion/Guidance

Issue

EWEB's annual McKenzie Valley community meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 16, 2023.

Background

Each year Commissioners and staff travel to Leaburg to engage with the McKenzie Valley community. The meetings are designed specifically for EWEB's Upriver customers, with no regular business items on the agenda. Subject matter experts from across the Utility collaborate on key messages, pre-meeting tabletop presentations and handouts, an informational meeting program, and live presentations filled with recurring topics of importance to the community and emerging issues. Special promotion of the meeting is made through multiple channels as well as personal invitations.

Discussion

Following the 2022 Upriver Meeting, Commissioners expressed sentiments that perhaps EWEB should approach the next meeting differently. There were no specific recommendations at that time.

An agenda item has been scheduled during the February 7, 2023, Board Meeting as an opportunity for Commissioners to discuss their goals and desired outcomes for this year's meeting. Staff will use the Board's guidance to develop meeting formats, strategies, and agendas to help achieve those results.

For purposes of discussion, the Board may wish to consider defining the meeting purpose.

Examples for Meeting Purpose

- Increase customer trust & confidence to build support for utility programs and initiatives through facilitated dialogue.
- Instill a sense of partnership between EWEB and the McKenzie Valley community by exchanging information in the upriver community space.
- Provide reassurance that the entire Board serves *all* EWEB customers, and the At-Large Commissioner is the McKenzie Valley community's designated representative.
- Share EWEB's plans and gather customer input to help inform Board decisions.
- Provide an opportunity for our upriver customers to feel heard in an easily accessible and open format.

Requested guidance – What would the Board like to be different?

- What does the Board want customers to learn or know?
- What roles would Commissioners like to have before/during the meeting?
- What support does the Board need to prepare them for a successful meeting?
- Are there any pitfalls to avoid?

Proposed Presentations or Table Topics

- Watershed Recovery Status and Investments
- EWEB and Pure Water Partners Programs for McKenzie Valley Customers
- Wildfire Mitigation
- Emergency preparedness
- Carmen-Smith status
- Leaburg Hydroelectric Project
- Listening Session and General Question & Answer

Are there other formats to exchange information to meet the meeting purpose?

- Round tables?
- Panel Sessions?
- Fireside chat style?
- Mingling time?
- Other?

For reference, the 2022 agenda and tabletop presentations are accessible on EWEB's website at link: <https://www.eweb.org/about-us/board-of-commissioners/2022-board-agendas-and-minutes/04-19-22-upriver-presentation>.

Recommendation/ Requested Board Action

Management is seeking Board feedback; no action is requested.