

**EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD  
REGULAR SESSION  
August 1, 2023  
5:30 P.M.**

**Commissioners Present:** Sonya Carlson, President; John Barofsky, Vice President; John Brown, Commissioner; Matt McRae, Commissioner; Mindy Schlossberg, Commissioner.

**Others Present:** Frank Lawson, EWEB General Manager; Brian Booth, Chief Energy Resources Officer; Lisa Krentz, Generation Manager; Mark Zinniker, Generation Engineering Supervisor; Jeremy Somogye, Planner IV, Generation Engineering; Rod Price, Assistant General Manager; Karen Kelley, Chief Operations Officer; Susan Fricke, Water Resources and Quality Assurance Supervisor; Julie McGaughey, Chief Customer Officer; Leah Pertl, Supervisor of Zero Carbon Energy Solutions, Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD); and Kurt Miller, Executive Director of Northwest RiverPartners.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**Agenda Check**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**Items from Board Members and General Manager [1:34]**

There were no items discussed.

**Correspondence [2:02]**

Mr. Lawson commented on a preliminary item of correspondence for next month. It was a Draft Communications and Outreach Plan for the upcoming large and impactful project at College Hill. Mr. Lawson invited any with questions to email him.

**Public Input [3:31]**

**Jake Risley** and his wife Nan do not support the decommissioning of the dam. Mr. Risley spoke against the proposed route connecting Leaburg Dam Road to Leashore Drive. He listed the many obstacles, disruptions, and impacts that would occur if this route is chosen.

**Will Rutherford** acknowledged and thanked the people who had previously provided transparent, thoughtful and informative presentations to the public at the upriver meeting. He encouraged everyone to continue to keep the public informed throughout the process.

**Tim Morris, Executive Director of the Springfield Eugene Tenant Association (SETA)**, from Eugene, stated that SETA is pleased to see EWEB proactively seeking solutions, both to address the climate threat and also to provide support to low income

tenants. They look forward to continued discussions and in seeking to support those most vulnerable in the community.

**Biff Owen** from Leaburg, spoke on the Leaburg Decommissioning Action Plan (LDAP) and Leaburg Dam Road. He stated that both Goodpasture and Dam roads are the sole entry/exit for their residents and should be a key component, but are currently missing from the LDAP. He discussed the impacts that would occur if the current LDAP were enacted.

**John Farkas** from Leaburg, shared the same viewpoint as the previous speaker Biff Owen. Mr. Farkas discussed the safety issues that would occur if they were to enact the LDAP.

**Mark Robinowitz** stated that a presentation given at the previous board meeting, which promoted the boiling of water with atomic fission, was one of the most outrageous misrepresentations that he had ever heard. He explained in detail what that would entail, then concluded that extreme costs for the nuclear revival was the least of anyone's problems. The real threat is in creating permanent sacrifice zones.

**Nadine Scott** from Leaburg, claimed that not all expenses had been researched in the decommissioning of the Leaburg Dam power canals, removal of the bridge, and reverting the lake back to a river. Tourism will be detrimentally affected. She concluded by saying that we need to preserve what we have instead of destroying historical landmarks and recreational opportunities.

**Kathy Ging**, a remote speaker from Eugene, discussed her quest to find affordable fireproof, locally sourced sustainable housing. She believes there is a great need for those building houses in the McKenzie River area to learn of and to build with more permanency and resiliency, by building with fireproof materials.

**Gary Hatfield**, a long-time resident from Vida, stated that there was much to consider with regards to the proposed Leaburg plans. He remarked that the State of Oregon has always placed a great value on recreational locations and he was not convinced that it would be worth tearing down, when one considers the financial, emotional, and physical toll that it would take on the community and the State.

**James Russell**, a wholesale blueberry grower from Leaburg, submitted written testimony. As a local business owner who employs ten local residents, he discussed the negative impact to his business and to his employees if EWEB cannot find a solution to access Leaburg Dam Road from Highway 126.

**Commissioner McRae** thanked the community members for sharing their unique knowledge of the area being discussed, both in-person and through written testimony. He felt it would be valuable to share the state of transportation planning, regarding Leaburg.

**President Carlson** noted that upon review, there was no solidified action plan. It still was in study-mode and there would still be many opportunities for community input.

**Mr. Lawson** acknowledged that EWEB is not the transportation authority for the area, however they will work with Lane County and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) on the transportation issues. He appreciated hearing from and understanding the community's thoughts on emergency access and their views on the LDAP.

**Commissioner Schlossberg** appreciated everyone who had highlighted specific concerns. She remarked that there was much uncertainty and anxiety among Leaburg residents and she wanted to ensure that a plan is in place to provide the residents with current information, as well as allow for their voice to be heard by EWEB.

**Commissioner Brown** directed public speaker Tim Morris, Executive Director for SETA to the evening's Agenda regarding weatherization and energy efficiency programs, suggesting that he may find that topic of interest. Mr. Brown then directed his comment to public speaker Mark Robinowitz, regarding the study of small scale nuclear, he stated that the Biden Administration's Department of Energy had just approved \$2.5 billion to study what Mr. Robinowitz had spoken against that evening.

## **BOARD ACTION AND GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **Approval of Consent Calendar — A, (Minutes and Routine Contracts) [42:20]**

#### **MINUTES**

1. a. July 11, 2023 Executive Session  
b. July 11, 2023 Regular Session

**MOTION:** Commissioner Brown moved to adopt Consent Calendar A.

The motion passed unanimously, 5:0.

### **Approval of Consent Calendar — B, (Nonroutine Contracts and Other Consent Items)**

#### **CONTRACTS**

2. **ALS Environmental, BSA Environmental Services, Inc., BSK Associates, Eurofins Eaton Analytical, LLC, and Neilson Research Corporation** – for Surface Water and Environmental Analytical Testing Services. \$875,000 (between 5 contracts) based on Formal Request for Proposals.
3. **HP Civil, Inc.** – for Campus Improvements at EWEB's Carmen-Smith project. \$2,232,000 based on Formal Invitation to Bid.
4. **NASPO ValuePoint** – for the use of the NASPO ValuePoint cooperative contracts to purchase Cloud Solutions (Software as a Service (SaaS), Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS), and Platform as a Service (PaaS)). \$1,000,000 (over 5 years).

5. **Owen Equipment** – for the use of a cooperative contract for the Purchase of a Vactor Manufacturing Truck Mounted Hydro-Excavator. \$652,000 (one-time).

6. **Wildish Building Company** – for approval of a Construction Task Order (CTO) for Construction Services for Dewatering and Inspection of the Carmen Diversion Dam Spillway. \$965,000 based on Guaranteed Maximum Price.

#### **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS**

7. **University of Oregon** – for an increase to the agreement for Enhancing Carbon Sequestration and Fire Resilience in Water and Energy Production Systems Research. \$200,000 (original agreement amount \$140,000, additional \$200,000 previously approved, resulting cumulative total \$540,000 over 6 years) based on Direct Negotiation.

Commissioner Brown wished to pull Item 3, from the Consent Calendar B.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Schlossberg moved to adopt Consent Calendar B, minus Item 3.

The motion passed unanimously, 5:0.

#### **Items Removed from Consent Calendar**

Commissioner Brown pulled Item 3, from the Consent Calendar B. (HP Civil, Inc.- Campus improvements at EWEB's Carmen-Smith project. \$2,232,000).

Commissioner Brown asked if staff had an expectation of the commodity unit price. \$2.3 million for improvements at the Carmen-Smith project seemed excessive to him.

Ms. Krentz, Generation Manager, clarified on the scope of the project, stating that it included the building of roads and foundations, along with the construction of some large buildings, and BOLI labor costs.

Mr. Zinniker, Supervisor Generation Engineering, added that there has been a long list of complications at their remote site. The contractors have been faced with required fire precautions from July through the end of the construction season. EWEB had an expectation of the cost and it was lower than expected.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Brown moved to adopt Item 3 on Consent Calendar B.

The motion passed unanimously, 5:0.

#### **2023 Integrated Resource Plan Adoption; Resolution No. 2315 [48:10]**

Frank Lawson, General Manager gave a presentation on the Integrated Resource Plan accompanied by PowerPoint slides.

Commissioner McRae stated that he would like to see a building electrification strategy included in the Plan.

Commissioner Barofsky added that the motion before them is only an action plan for the next couple of years and that he would lend his support.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution 2315 adopting the 2023 Integrated Resource Plan IRP, acknowledging the Published Analytical Results and Approving the Actions identified in Appendix A.

The motion passed unanimously, 5:0.

### **Hydropower/Fish & Wildlife Overview [1:03:19]**

Executive Director, Northwest RiverPartners, Kurt Miller gave a PowerPoint presentation on long-term resource planning and answered questions from the Board. The goal of Northwest River Partners is to lead the charge of the Northwest in realizing its clean energy potential with hydroelectricity as a cornerstone. Mr. Miller discussed the complicated issue of climate change and the effects it is having on salmon. Driven by the Zero- Carbon Mandates, there are many debates and legal battles over dam models that are in use. The great challenge of our time regarding the electric grid is trying to make it decarbonized while still making it reliable.

### **Energy Efficiency Programs for Renters [1:42:42]**

Leah Pertl, Supervisor of Zero Carbon Energy Solutions, Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) offered the Board a PowerPoint presentation on SMUDs' approach to community impact planning and energy efficiency programs and answered questions from the Board. Their purpose is to provide reliable and affordable electricity that is always available for use and to lead the transition to a clean energy future. Currently, SMUD has achieved 60% of their goal to be 100% zero carbon-free goal by 2030. Ms. Pertl described SMUD's Residential and Commercial Complimentary Planned projects, Tenant Engagement programs and services, and Rebate/Incentive programs.

### **Break [2:23:48]**

### **Draft Leaburg Decommissioning Action Plan (LDAP) Update [2:34:56]**

Lisa Krentz, Generation Manager offered the Board a PowerPoint presentation and spoke on the Draft Leaburg Decommissioning Action Plan. Lisa Krentz and Mark Zinniker then answered questions from the Board.

Ms. Krentz stated that the long and very complicated planning process is at the very early stages. The Action Plan will serve as an overarching guidance document that outlines the steps needed to follow over the coming years, including regulatory process and stakeholder engagement. Background information on the project key milestones and decision points can also be found in the plan, however such items as timelines, key milestones, staffing and resource strategies have yet to be fully developed. The Action Plan will continue to evolve over time, and the impacts and benefits of decisions made

now and into the future will be weighed. Throughout the evaluation the triple-bottom line approach will be used to assess the social, environmental and economic impacts of the proposals. The Board will be presented with three different licensing processes, including the pros and cons of each pathway in October or November. In December the Board will receive a final draft of the Action Plan and will then be asked for their endorsement on their direction provided for the chosen pathway. The Action Plan will be a living document that will continue to be updated throughout the entirety of the process.

In response to comments from the Board, Ms. Krentz stated, in regard to transportation issues in the Leaburg project area, no decision has been made. There is a lot of engineering feasibility work and coordination with the transportation agencies, which have the actual authority over any new road.

Commissioner Barofsky suggested that a financial trigger be put in place requiring contracts that go beyond 5% - 10% over an expected budget, be brought to the Board for further discussion and problem solving because ratepayers would be responsible for paying the cost.

**SD22 Resiliency Policy Approval; Resolution No. 2313 [3:10:11]**

Frank Lawson, General Manager provided a brief overview of the action item and referenced a presentation slide.

Commissioner McRae stated that while he appreciates the direction the policy is going, he does not feel that it goes far enough.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Brown moved to approve Resolution No. 2313 to adopt SD22 Resiliency Policy.

The motion passed, 4-1; Commissioner McRae opposed.

**Quarterly Strategic & Operational Report for Q2 [3:16:08]**

Frank Lawson, General Manager offered the Board a PowerPoint presentation and discussed highlights for the quarter. Management then answered questions from the Board.

**Future Board Agendas [3:31:52]**

President Carlson commented that she would try to be more cognizant in the future as the Board approves agendas and move items earlier in the meeting when there is interest from a large group allowing for more people to stay for it.

**Board Wrap Up. [3:32:56]**

Commissioner Barofsky asked how the Board should move forward after hearing the informative presentation from SMUD.

Commissioner Brown replied that procedurally, with three head nods, the Board can create an agenda item to further discuss and then request a proposal from staff.

Commissioner Schlossberg was curious to hear from staff on what they had gleaned from the presentation and where they see opportunities around the increase of energy efficiency or conservation.

Mr. Lawson suggested next steps including review of what was learned from SMUD and what items could be evaluated on a practical basis, such as things that correlate to the IRP Action Plan's assessment of the value of trade-off between the costs and the benefits of energy efficiency and conservation. He also wants to hear from staff on which programs they think are practical to implement under the different time frames - taking into consideration EWEB's information system upgrade. He added that an agenda item to discuss the findings could be scheduled if the Board desires.

Commissioner McRae added that they need to summarize EWEB's programs and incentives for renters to come to an understanding of the baseline and discuss whether or not the Board wants to further promote those programs.

President Carlson would like to have more robust reporting to the Board about EWEB's customer programs. She concluded with the following points:

- The microphone issue must be resolved.
- From an equity perspective, both the presentation and the report, on particular topics should be available to audience members for review.

### **Adjournment**

President Carlson adjourned the Regular Session at 9:28 p.m.

*Recorded by Trenay Ryan, LCOG*

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Assistant Secretary

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President