

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

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

Others Present: Frank Lawson, EWEB General Manager; Rod Price, Assistant General Manager; Brian Booth, Chief Energy Resources Officer; Aaron Bush, Resource Analyst; Jonathan Hart, Power Planning Supervisor; Deborah Hart, Chief Financial Officer; Aaron Balmer, Financial Services Manager; Daniel Davidson, Senior Financial Analyst; Janice Lee, Senior Financial Analyst; Jason Heuser, Public Policy/Government Affairs Program Manager; Lisa Krentz, Generation Manager; Laura Ohman, Chief Dam Safety Engineer; and Alicia Voorhees, Budget and Rates Supervisor.

CALL TO ORDER

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

Agenda Check

There were no changes to the agenda.

Items from Board Members and General Manager [1:20]

Vice President Barofsky attended the November McKenzie Watershed Council meeting. He noted that habitat restoration on the McKenzie River is one of the council's biggest budgets to date, and a positive thing for our watershed.

President Carlson toured the municipal wastewater treatment plant. She participated in the EWEB Run to Stay Warm event on November 19, 2023. She conducted a presentation to Eugene Rotary on November 28, 2023. President Carlson highlighted two upcoming events: Eugene's 70th Annual Celebration of Business on January 30, 2024, and Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) Celebration Dinner on March 8, 2024, at the Cottage Grove Armory.

General Manager Frank Lawson reported that he will provide a summary of financial returns for the Run to Stay Warm event in the next General Manager's report. He said EWEB's Communications Team received two national awards from the American Public Power Association for videos they produced about the Leaburg Dam Project and daily energy consumption. He referenced a link to the video, which was shared with Commissioners.

Correspondence [6:02]

Mr. Lawson highlighted three correspondence items: preparing for election of officers

and appointment of liaisons at the upcoming January board meeting, EWEB's local banking participation, and 2023 year-end audit planning.

Public Input [9:00]

The following testimony was provided to the EWEB Commissioners: The Board neither endorses or opposes, or is responsible for the accuracy of content, of testimony including any links or references provided.

Written Testimony:

Stephanie Tidwell of Eugene, Oregon shared comments related to the clean energy transition including to expand energy efficiency financial aid programs and continue adding more solar to our grid.

Theresa Brand of Eugene, Oregon expressed opposition to high utility rate increases, specifically citing that she is concerned about the 5.7% electric increase and 7.8% water increase. She suggested a modest increase of 2% for each utility. She cited concern about senior houselessness.

Drew Simrin of Eugene, Oregon expressed support of weatherization and heat pumps, specifically citing there is much to be done to meet the City's goals to reduce fossil fuel consumption by 50% of 2010 levels by 2030 and urging EWEB to work with the City of Eugene to support electric heat pump retrofits and expand weatherization programs.

Joanne Fanucchi of Eugene, Oregon expressed support of sustainable energy, specifically working in partnership with the City of Eugene to realize our childrens' goals for the future.

Patricia Hine of Eugene, Oregon shared comments related to removing barriers to electrification, including urging EWEB to prioritize making the transition easy and affordable to all.

Benton Elliott of Ward 1 expressed support of investing in programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect vulnerable communities from the impacts of the climate crisis.

Verbal Testimony:

Mark Robinowitz of Eugene, Oregon shared comments related to utility legislative priorities. He referenced an article from The Nation titled "The Green New Deal Is The Opiate of the Masses." A written copy of the testimony was also provided to the Board.

Stacy Koos of Eugene, Oregon shared comments related to EWEB's local banking participation including her thanks for EWEB's continued support by depositing with Summit Bank. She said deposit dollars are vital to community banks like Summit Bank.

BOARD ACTION AND GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS

Approval of Consent Calendar – A, Minutes and Routine Contracts [16:50]

MINUTES

1. a. November 7, 2023 Executive Session #1
- b. November 7, 2023 Executive Session #2
- c. November 7, 2023 Regular Session

CONTRACTS

2. **EC Electric, L.R. Brabham, and OEG** – for electrical services \$1,200,000 (over 5 years between 3 contracts) based on a formal invitation to bid (ITB).

3. **Key Line Construction, Potelco Inc., and Wilson Construction Company** – for electric line crew services \$5,000,000 (over 5 years between 3 contracts) based on a formal invitation to bid (ITB).

MOTION: Commissioner Schlossberg moved to adopt Consent Calendar A minus Item 2.

The motion passed unanimously, 5:0.

MOTION: Commissioner McRae moved to adopt Consent Calendar A Item 2 – EC Electric, L.R. Brabham, and OEG. Commissioner Brown abstained from voting.

The motion passed, 4:0.

Approval of Consent Calendar – B, Nonroutine Contracts and Other Consent Items [19:39]

CONTRACTS:

4. **Diversified Workplace Solutions** – for audio-visual solutions and a technology upgrade in the ROC training room \$180,000 (one-time) based on the use of a cooperative contract.

RESOLUTIONS:

5. **Resolution No. 2321** – authorize General Manager to amend and extend Power Sales Agreement and Joint Operation Agreement with International Paper.

6. **Resolution No. 2322** – Water Utility 2023 Capital Budget Amendment.

MOTION: Vice President Barofsky moved to adopt Consent Calendar B.

The motion passed unanimously, 5:0.

Items Removed from Consent Calendar [20:25]

There were none.

Upcoming Year (2024) Proposed Budgets and Prices [20:27]

Chief Financial Officer Deborah Hart presented the upcoming year (2024) proposed budgets and prices via PowerPoint presentation. She was joined by Financial Services Manager Aaron Balmer and Budget and Rates Supervisor Alicia Voorhees. Following the presentation they answered questions from the Board.

Vice President Barofsky noted that Commissioners take rate increases seriously and consider all options when making a decision as they understand the impacts to customers.

Resolution No. 2326 – EWEB’s 2024 State Legislative Agenda [37:45] (Board Policy GP13)

Mr. Lawson and Public Policy/Government Affairs Program Manager Jason Heuser introduced Resolution No. 2326 – EWEB’s 2024 State Legislative Agenda (Board Policy GP13) and provided information via PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the Board.

MOTION: Commissioner McRae moved to adopt Resolution No. 2326.

The motion passed unanimously, 5:0.

Annual Dam Safety Program Update [1:00]

Generation Manager Lisa Krentz and Chief Dam Safety Engineer Laura Ohman provided an annual Dam Safety Program update via PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the Board.

Vice President Barofsky requested additional information regarding the Board’s responsibilities related to the dam safety program. Ms. Krentz said she would provide this information to Commissioners.

Upcoming Year (2024) Proposed Budgets and Prices [1:35:00]

Public Hearing on Upcoming Year (2024) Proposed Budgets and Prices [1:35:30]

President Carlson opened the public hearing on 2024 proposed budgets and prices at 7:05 p.m. President Carlson closed the public hearing on 2024 proposed budgets and prices at 7:05 p.m.

Resolution No. 2323 – 2024 Budget
Resolution No. 2324 – Electric Prices
Resolution No. 2325 – Water Prices

MOTION: Vice President Barofsky moved to approve Resolution No. 2323, Resolution No. 2324, and Resolution No. 2325.

The motion passed unanimously, 5,0.

President Carlson adjourned the Regular Session at 7:07 p.m. and called for a break.

WORK SESSION

President Carlson called the Work Session to order at 7:17 p.m.

2024 Organizational Goal Development [1:47:30]

Mr. Lawson and Assistant General Manager Rod Price introduced the topic of 2024 Annual Organizational Priorities and provided information via PowerPoint presentation. They received feedback from the Commissioners about 2024 priorities and goals.

Future Board Agendas [2:24:30]

Mr. Lawson described future board agendas.

Board Wrap Up [2:26:30]

President Carlson engaged the board in a board wrap up.

Adjourn

President Carlson adjourned the Work Session at 7:59 p.m.

Recorded by Terah Van Dusen, LCOG

Assistant Secretary

President