



The following questions have been posed by Commissioners prior to the scheduled Board Meeting on July 8, 2025. Staff responses are included below and are sorted by Agenda topic.

Review of Annual Organizational Goals (Potential Revisions) (LAWSON) What areas were removed and why were they removed from this revised version?

RESPONSE: *The Board-approved 2018-2028 Strategic Plan remains unchanged and still forms the basis for the mission, vision, and annual goals. The “Strategic Compass” is the method by which the strategy is aligned and deployed consistently throughout the organization, including 5-year themes, the annual goals supporting those themes, and the deliverables and activities supporting the achievement of those goals. In essence, one of the purposes of the Strategic Compass is to connect the dots between near-term work and longer-term strategies.*

Of the goals approved in February, management will present the progress toward achieving those goals, as originally stated, at the August meeting. As an example of a direct impact, EWEB will not be in a position to launch Pre-Pay in 2025 but will in early 2026. As the Strategic Compass daylights, the groundwork associated with gathering, storing, and presenting interval data, creating a data warehouse, and developing a mobile app are all prerequisites to a successful pre-pay program to assist limited income customers. These prerequisites are 2025 deliverables in support of our goal to “assess and enhance the impact of EWEB’s limited income support programs”.

Consent Calendar

CONTRACTS

LX International America, Inc. - for a 38 MVA Transformer. (KELLEY/KRENTZ) In anticipation of Board questions, we provide the following:

Why EWEB is purchasing a transformer from South Korea instead of an American company given the cost and experience with Virginia Transformers (second-place bidder).

RESPONSE: *LX International’s price, when we considered transformer power losses (i.e., efficiency), is lower than Virginia Transformers. Additionally, LX International offered a fixed price rather than index pricing (the use of an index to adjust the price when the product is shipped) and agreed to pay 20% of any tariffs charged at the time of delivery in 2027. No other companies were willing to pay a percentage of tariffs.*

Why is the contract amount different than the offered price in the proposal/bid?

RESPONSE: *The contract price includes the purchase of an additional 2-year warranty (~\$18k per year).*

In the description of the bid it says that we did a factory tour for due diligence. If I am reading it right the company is in South Korea. Did we send someone to Korea and if so, what was the cost of the trip?

RESPONSE: *EWEB sent engineering staff (two) to South Korea for a factory and quality inspection, with travel costing a total of \$5,754.66. It is a standard practice for engineering to evaluate manufacturing capabilities and sites of expensive high-tech equipment that we haven’t worked with before to ensure materials, construction and assembly meet our specifications. In the case of LX International, adding another supplier of large power transformers provides more alternatives to evaluate price and delivery in the future. The engineers were pleased with what they saw and LX International passed the inspection as required within the RFP.*

Cornforth Consultants, Inc. – for additional funds for Dam Safety Engineering Services. (KELLEY/KRENTZ) I see we are spending more on Carmen. Do we have an all in number on what has been spent above the approved budget over the years. It seems that we see a contract almost every month requesting money that is outside of what has been budgeted. I am just curious if we know what the total cost is or will be.

RESPONSE: Consent Calendar B#5 pertains to the Leaburg-Walterville Project. Updates on the current spend rate on the Carmen/Smith Project will be provided in the Q2 Report next month.

Garten Services, Inc. – for Janitorial Services for the Roosevelt Operations Center and Hayden Bridge Water Filtration Plant. (KELLEY/MILOVICH) Can you tell me more about Oregon Forward, and how this program works, and does it limit our ability to get the lowest bid?

RESPONSE: Yes, Oregon Forward Contractor (OFC) limits our ability to select the lowest bid. We don't competitively solicit for the services on the open market. EWEB is required per statute to use OFC's if they provide a particular service in our area (ORS 279.835 – 279.855, OAR 125-055-0005 – 125-055-0045).

Note in the references provided below, "Oregon Forward Contractors" used to be called "Qualified Rehabilitation Facilities". You'll see them referred to as either in the information and links provided below.

https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/ors/ors279.html
<https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/displayDivisionRules.action?selectedDivision=241>

If DAS has determined that the price is acceptable and the OFC can provide the necessary service, we are required to use them:

" 279.850 Procurement of product or service; agreements for procurement; exceptions; preferences. (1)(a)
Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection and subject to paragraph (c) of this subsection, a public agency that intends to procure a product or service on the procurement list that the Oregon Department of Administrative Services established under ORS 279.845 shall, in accordance with the department's rules, procure the product or service at the price the department establishes from a qualified nonprofit agency for individuals with disabilities, provided that the product or service is of the appropriate specifications and is available within the period the public agency requires."

Here is more information on the Oregon Forward Program:

<https://www.oregon.gov/das/procurement/pages/oregonforward.aspx>

Verizon Wireless – for the continued use of a cooperative contract for the purchase of wireless voice, data, and accessories. (KNABE/MCCALLUM)

Link Oregon – for additional funds for Internet Services. (KNABE/MCCALLUM) Why do we need both Link Oregon and Verizon contracts? I understand one is for off-site services; does it not provide coverage within the building too? Is the Verizon contract a metered service?

RESPONSE: We have two providers we purchase Internet connections from at our EWEB facilities for redundancy, Link Oregon being one of them. These connections support the day-to-day Internet usage at EWEB facilities.

The Verizon contract is not a metered service, it's for EWEB owned mobile devices (cellphones, tablets, and laptops) that are issued to employees. While in the buildings these devices do connect to our EWEB WiFi for Internet service, the Verizon service is for connectivity while out of the building(s).