

**EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
August 5, 2025
5:30 p.m.**

Commissioners Present: President, John Barofsky; Vice President, Mindy Schlossberg; and Commissioners Sonya Carlson, John Brown, and Tim Morris

Commissioners Absent: None

Others Present: Frank Lawson, General Manager; Deborah Hart, Assistant General Manager/Chief Financial Officer; Brian Booth, Chief Energy Resource Officer; Karen Kelley, Chief Operations Officer; and Diedre Williams, Chief People Officer; Christopher Irvin, Water Engineering Supervisor

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order [00:00:00]

President Barofsky called the regular meeting to order at 5:29 p.m.

Agenda Check [00:00:17]

There were no changes to the agenda.

Items from Board Members and General Manager [00:00:26]

Commissioner Brown reported attending the annual meeting of the Lane Electric Cooperative as a customer and a representative. He said several neighbors asked why the water lines in the roads have man covers that have been painted blue.

General Manager Frank Lawson said he would follow up with the information.

President Barofsky reported that he and Vice President Schlossberg attended a meeting with a consultant working on an EWEB policy and that the meeting went well.

Mr. Lawson highlighted the upcoming Safety Exposition happening on September 11, 2025. He invited Board members to attend.

Correspondence [00:02:10]

There was none.

Public Input: In-person or by Telephone [00:02:11]

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.

Karl Morgenstern, Upper Willamette Water and Soil Conservation Board Chair, provided comments related to a request for EWEB support and investment stewarding a property. He referenced a letter recently sent to the Commissioners with further details about the proposal.

Tom Hutton, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 659 Representative, expressed opposition to management, requesting an independent third-party investigation of EWEB's Human Resources department, and citing concerns about the erosion of workplace rights, unchecked management behavior, and the failure of EWEB's internal systems to protect its employees.

Rachel McKinnis, Ward 7, expressed opposition to the use of smart meters. She reported that even with the signal turned off, she experiences adverse health effects including difficulty sleeping, difficulty focusing, and breathing issues. She requested that community members have the option of an analog meter.

Commissioner Brown addressed EWEB electrical workers in the audience. He thanked them for their presence at the meeting and said their concerns will be addressed with the proper protocol.

Commissioner Brown responded to public comment from Karl Morgenstern. He voiced his advocacy for clean water while acknowledging EWEB budget pressures. He said Commissioners will discuss the topic later in the meeting.

President Barofsky addressed public comment from union representative Tom Hutton, stating that the EWEB Board of Commissioners is a policy setting board, rather than an action board, and he would leave it to the General Manager to do what is right and if he needs more resources or input from the Board he should come to them.

Mr. Lawson stated that he has a great deal of respect for the work that employees do. He said EWEB must work within the collective bargaining agreement and organizational processes and policies. He said investigations happen when they are warranted and issues will be addressed fairly and appropriately.

Commissioner Brown asked Mr. Lawson for clarification about how Commissioners may respond to requests to listen to employee concerns.

Mr. Lawson responded that Commissioners may listen to employee concerns but must delegate action and decision-making to the General Manager.

President Barofsky asked if Commissioners can request an independent investigation.

Mr. Lawson referenced Board Linkage (BL) policies. He said the Board could direct the General Manager to conduct an independent investigation, but there are state agencies who are independent lines of appeal, so those mechanisms already exist and would not necessarily be appropriate.

BOARD ACTION AND GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS

Approval of Consent Calendar – A, Minutes and Routine Contracts [00:19:32]

MINUTES

1. a. June 17, 2025 Work Session
- b. July 8, 2025 Regular Session

CONTRACTS

2. **David Evans and Associates, Inc.** – for the Jessen Substation Rebuild. \$170,000 based on Formal Request for Proposal (Original contract amount \$580,000, spend over last approval \$77,225, resulting cumulative total \$750,000).

3. **NAPA Genuine Parts Company dba TWGW, Inc.** – for Vendor Managed and Inventory Logistics Management Solutions for Fleets and Facilities. \$10.2 million based on a Cooperative Contract.

MOTION: Vice President Schlossberg moved to approve Consent Calendar A. The motion passed unanimously, 5:0:0; President Barofsky, Vice President Schlossberg, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Brown, and Commissioner Morris all voting in favor.

Approval of Consent Calendar – B, Nonroutine Contracts and Other Consent Items [00:19:50]

CONTRACTS

4. **Mason, Bruce, & Girard, Inc.** – for Carmen-Smith Botanical Consulting Services. \$300,000 based on Direct Negotiation/Sole Source.

5. **PSI Water Technologies, Inc.** – for As-Needed Parts for Hayden Bridge Sodium Hypochlorite Generation System. \$200,000 over 5-years based on Direct Negotiation/Sole Source.

MOTION: Vice President Schlossberg moved to approve Consent Calendar B. The motion passed unanimously, 5:0:0; President Barofsky, Vice President Schlossberg, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Brown, and Commissioner Morris all voting in favor.

Upper Willamette SWCD Investments and Opportunities [00:20:04]

Chief Financial Officer Deborah Hart and Chief Operations Officer Karen Kelley engaged the Board in a discussion about Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) investments and opportunities.

Commissioner Brown expressed strong support for investing in Upper Willamette SWCD investments and opportunities, stating that he cannot think of a more important expenditure. He advocated for contributing, at the least, partial funding.

Ms. Kelley responded that the property is of high interest to EWEB and they support watershed stewardship in that location. Their recommendation is, given that other projects had to be put off because of rate impacts, to shift the current budget without raising rates to accomplish the same

thing and work with the conservation district to come up with an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA).

Mr. Lawson provided further context regarding the staff recommendation, including that investing for a number of years is not what he would classify as good stewardship of the financial resource. He suggested supporting the work through EWEB's Healthy Farms, Clean Water Program.

Vice President Schlossberg commented that it seems like a strategic opportunity for EWEB and she supports funding it in some way. She suggested fleshing out the details more.

Commissioner Carlson expressed her general support but said that funding sitting in interest gives her pause. She asked about the timeline.

Mr. Lawson indicated that a commitment indicating their level of support will need to be made no later than October 1.

Commissioner Morris said he is supportive. He suggested that the challenge may be a timing issue rather than an intent or fiscal reality issue. He agreed with other Commissioners about gathering more information before making a final decision.

President Barofsky suggested considering being a gap funder for a year or so. He is in favor of the project and is supportive of it moving forward but would like to see a management plan before making a vote.

Commissioner Carlson inquired about restrictions on properties along the river.

Mr. Lawson summarized the questions posed by Commissioners and committed to following up soon with more information.

Potential Ownership Transfer of City-Owned Fire Hydrants Discussion [00:40:43]

Mr. Lawson, Ms. Hart, and Ms. Kelley engaged the Board in a discussion about the ownership of fire hydrants via PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Lawson explained that management is seeking guidance and Board endorsement to develop a resolution to guide negotiations with the City of Eugene on a potential ownership transfer of city-owned fire hydrants.

He provided relevant background information, including that the opportunity involves nearly 4,000 fire hydrants. He outlined some of the benefits, including protection of the water system, efficiencies, and improved maintenance and quality; and some of the cons. He cited a 2% average rate increase based on a replacement rate of 60 hydrants/year.

Mr. Lawson opened the floor to questions and comments from the Board.

Commissioner Carlson said protecting the community when there is a more heightened need around fires is at the top of mind for her. She is supportive but would like to see assurances around sharing liability.

Commissioner Morris expressed general support for the potential fire hydrant ownership transfer. He asked if there are other public utilities that manage their city's fire hydrants.

Ms. Kelley responded that most public water utilities manage their own hydrants.

Vice President Schlossberg expressed her general support. She recommended negotiations, particularly regarding finances and regulations.

President Barofsky expressed his enthusiastic support, citing safety and the relatively low-rate increase.

Commissioner Brown said he is in favor of managing the hydrants in-house, but he is not in favor of taking on one hundred percent financial responsibility. He suggested a joint venture.

Recurring – Quarterly/Mid-year Operational and Organizational Goals Update & Approval of Revised 2025 Organizational Goals [01:03:18]

Mr. Lawson provided a robust quarterly update via PowerPoint presentation, outlining the following:

Part 1

Performance Summary/Status – Year-to-Date EWEB Operations
Status of 2025 Annual Goals (Approved February)
Commissioner Comment

Part 2

Revised Goals (EWEB Business Management System and Strategic Compass)
Commissioner Comments and Guidance
Approval – Revised Annual Goals

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to approve the revised 2025 Annual Goals based on implementation of EWEB Business Management System. The motion passed unanimously, 5:0:0; President Barofsky, Vice President Schlossberg, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Brown, and Commissioner Morris all voting in favor.

General Manager Transition Plan [01:31:31]

Mr. Lawson informed the Board that his last day at EWEB will be in the second quarter of 2026. He is announcing it now to give the Board the opportunity to recruit and on board another General Manager.

Chief People Officer Diedre Williams assured the Board that the process for hiring a recruitment firm has begun and staff will follow up with a recommendation.

Future Board Agendas [01:43:22]

Mr. Lawson mentioned a tour of the lower river.

Board Wrap Up [01:45:24]

Commissioner Brown asked when AMI will be fully implemented.

Mr. Lawson responded that it's 98% deployed on the electric side but behind on water.

Ms. Kelley added that water meters should be done by the end of 2026.

Adjourn [01:47:18]

President Barofsky adjourned the regular meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Recorded by Terah Van Dusen, LCOG

Assistant Secretary

President

EWEB Board Consent Calendar Request

For Contract Awards, Renewals, and Increases

The Board is being asked to approve a new contract with **Corrpro Companies, Inc.** for a **Transmission Main Corrosion Survey**.

Board Meeting Date:	September 2, 2025
Project Name/Contract #:	Transmission Main Corrosion Survey / 25-034-Q
Manager:	Mike Masters Ext. 7549
Executive Officer:	Karen Kelley Ext. 7153

Contract Amount:

Original Contract Amount:	\$461,000
Additional \$ Previously Approved:	\$0
Spend over last approval:	\$0
Amount this Request:	\$461,000
% Increase over last approval:	NA
Resulting Cumulative Total:	\$461,000

Contracting Method:

Method of Solicitation:	Formal Request for Proposals (RFP)
If applicable, basis for exemption:	NA
Term of Agreement:	5-months (September 3, 2025 – January 31, 2026)
Option to Renew?	No
Approval for purchases “as needed”:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposals/Bids Received (Range):	4 (\$313,000 - \$461,000)
Selection Basis:	Highest Ranked Proposer

Narrative:

Operational Requirement and Alignment with Strategic Plan

EWEB owns and maintains approximately 36 miles of water transmission pipelines and condition assessment is critical for maintaining water quality and mitigating high consequence failure through leakage. In 2008, EWEB completed a corrosion survey on raw water transmission from the intake to the plant, the 60-inch diameter finished water transmission main (60-inch), and the 45-inch diameter finished water transmission main (45-inch). Coating damage was discovered in numerous locations and repairs were completed. Several years later, EWEB completed a pipeline leak assessment for the entire length of the 45-inch, and no leaks were found. However, the post-assessment recommendation was to complete a follow up corrosion survey on EWEB’s critical transmission pipes, the 45-inch and 60-inch diameter pipelines, every ten years. The 45-inch and the 60-inch pipelines are critical because they route from the Hayden Bridge Water Filtration Plant to Eugene, and there are locations under the I-5 and the Willamette River. The transmission pipelines are composed of approximately 29,100-feet of 45-inch pipe and 18,250-feet of 60-inch welded steel pipe. The corrosion survey results will identify locations where corrosion potential is high and investigate these locations in greater detail through direct assessment. Therefore, EWEB completed a request for proposal (RFP) process with the purpose of completing a follow-up corrosion survey assessment of EWEB’s most critical transmission pipelines.

Contracted Goods or Services

A corrosion survey is a widely used and cost-effective process in the water industry to identify pipeline corrosion and investigate in greater detail through direct assessment. EWEB's RFP required a standard four step process; pre-assessment, indirect assessment, direct assessment, post assessment which allows for the least expensive technologies to evaluate the entire length of pipeline and when corrosion potential is high, higher resolution technologies are utilized leading to the most granular assessment by exposing the transmission main for direct assessment. The pricing is estimated as a contract limit and includes all the proposed optional scope. However, EWEB retains the ability to complete all excavation work as part of the contract, resulting in cost savings, in accordance with EWEB construction crew availability.

Purchasing Process

Staff issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) in May of this year and posted on the OregonBuys website. Four (4) firms responded with written proposals. These proposals were evaluated based on criteria established in the RFP, including: General Plan and Sequence of Work (50%), Qualifications & References (35%), and Pricing Proposal (15%). Two (2) firms were requested to provide pricing as a final step of evaluation, and Corrpro Companies, Inc. was determined to be the highest ranked proposer by the evaluation committee.

Proposals/Bids Received

Vendor Name	City, State	Offered Price	Ranking (for RFPs)
Corrpro Companies, Inc.	Yorba Linda, California	\$461,100*	1
HDR Engineering, Inc.	Bellevue, Washington	\$312,682	2
Alisto, Inc.	Walnut Creek, California	NA	NA
Norton Corrosion Limited, LLC	Woodinville, Washington	NA	NA

* Cost includes provisions for contractor provided excavation services if EWEB cannot complete this work. HDR proposed a lower fee because they assumed EWEB would complete excavation services.

Prior Contract Activities

EWEB Contract	Project Name (Description)	Board Approved	Project Duration (Start to Close)	Original Amount	Approved/Amended Amount to Date (Total)	Reason Code
1940 PSC	14196 Water Source Additions & Raw Water Pipeline Assessments	NA	January 1, 2008 – June 30, 2008	\$74,020		

Reason Code: AM = Additional Materials, AW = Additional Work, EW= Emergency Work, SD = Staff Directed, UC = Unforeseen Conditions, Other

ACTION REQUESTED:

Management requests the Board approve a contract with Corrpro Companies, Inc. for a Transmission Main Corrosion Survey. Approximately \$2.25 million was planned for Professional and Technical Services in the Water O&M 2025 budget of \$20.5 million. Variances will be managed within the budget process and Board policy.

BUDGET CATEGORY: Water O&M, Professional and Technical Services, Consulting

EWEB Board Consent Calendar Request

For Cooperative Contracts

The Board is being asked to authorize the use of a cooperative contract to purchase an **Avtec Radio Dispatch Console** from **Day Wireless**.

Board Meeting Date: September 2, 2025
Project Name/Contract #: Avtec Radio Dispatch Console / NASPO 00318
Manager: Scott Milovich Ext. 7408
Executive Officer: Karen Kelley Ext. 7153
Expected Spend: \$270,000

Narrative:

EWEB currently uses the MIP 5000 radio system which has met its end of life. EWEB's Dispatch, Trading Floor, Electric Operations, and Water departments have been using the MIP 5000 radio system since 2007 as its primary radio system to communicate with crews and personnel out in the field. The MIP 5000 is no longer in use by other agencies and Motorola no longer covers the maintenance or makes parts for this system. EWEB is the last of the Lane Regional Interoperability Group (LRIG) partners to utilize the MIP 5000 radios as the other agencies upgraded several years ago. Staff propose replacing the MIP 5000 with the Avtec Radio Dispatch Console.

Operational Requirement and Alignment with Strategic Plan

In addition to replacing the obsolete MIP 5000 consoles, the proposed Avtec console provides two important features that were lacking in the MIP 5000:

1. Selective cross-mute between operating positions. This is a benefit to EWEB Dispatchers as it prevents the audio of one radio from retransmitting on the other radio when two radios are in the same area (prevents audio feedback).
2. Field unit alias display in log rather than just unit ID. Alias is a radio "nickname" that can be used for identification purposes (John Doe). The current console displays the radio ID like a serial number.

Purchasing Process

The State of Washington issued an RFP for Public Safety Communications Products, Services and Solutions for Category 4 Dispatch Solutions in November, 2020, under the NASPO ValuePoint Cooperative Purchasing Program. Responses were scored according to the RFP's Evaluation Criteria across mandatory technical requirements, system solutions narrative, experience, qualifications and services, references, and cost evaluation. Avtec was awarded a contract and Day Wireless is the authorized reseller for the Avtec equipment.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Management requests the Board authorize the use of a cooperative contract for the purchase of a new Avtec Radio Dispatch Console from Day Wireless. The end of life for this equipment was not anticipated and as such was not budgeted for, but savings from elsewhere in the Electric Division budget will be used to cover project costs. Variances will be managed within the budget process and Board policy.

BUDGET CATEGORY: Electric Division, Capital Type 1-Teleco

EWEB Board Consent Calendar Request

For Contract Awards, Renewals, and Increases

The Board is being asked to approve additional funds for **Construction Services at Danebo Substation** with **Wildish Building Company**.

Board Meeting Date:	September 2, 2025	
Project Name/Contract #:	Danebo Substation Foundation Construction / 25-015-PW	
Manager:	Tyler Nice	Ext. 7419
Executive Officer:	Karen Kelley	Ext. 7153

Contract Amount:

Original Contract Amount:	\$676,000 (approved March 4, 2025)
Additional \$ Previously Approved:	\$0
Spend over last approval:	\$89,101
Amount this Request:	\$192,000
% Increase over last approval:	28.4%
Resulting Cumulative Total:	\$868,000

Contracting Method:

Method of Solicitation:	Formal Invitation to Bid (ITB)
If applicable, basis for exemption:	NA
Term of Agreement:	Completion by April 30, 2026 (Originally August 30, 2025)
Option to Renew?	No
Approval for purchases "as needed":	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposals/Bids Received (Range):	1 - \$ 676,000
Selection Basis:	Lowest Responsive and Responsible Bidder

Narrative:

Operational Requirement and Alignment with Strategic Plan

EWEB plans to begin rebuilding Jessen Substation in 2026. Early load studies found that EWEB's distribution could not support backfeeding Jessen in its current state. The chosen solution was to reconfigure the 115kV bus at Danebo substation and replace one of the transformers to support this work. Work was already planned to replace one of the switchgear buildings at Danebo, so EWEB took the opportunity to combine this work into a single project to reduce overall cost and outage duration. The planned reconfiguration will provide EWEB with enhanced reliability options that will last well beyond the Jessen rebuild and will be beneficial to customers' service reliability and EWEB's future capital plans. Because of the nature of this project there is significant subgrade and foundation work that needs to be completed, which is the purpose of this contract.

Due to a delay with the switchgear manufacturer, part of the work needs to be delayed until 2026 to maintain service reliability. Delayed elements are noted in the Contracted Goods and Services below. Wildish submitted Change Order 3 which includes cost increases due to expected labor rate increases in 2026, de-mobilization and re-mobilization, and lost efficiencies due to reduced yard accessibility after foundations are constructed. Other than adding additional yard rock to be replaced, this change order does not add any scope to the contract.

Contracted Goods or Services

The contractor is responsible for the following work:

- Remove foundations and conduit for equipment no longer in use – delayed to 2026
- Construct new foundations for the following equipment:
 - 33 MVA station transformer
 - Control house
 - 115kV breaker – delayed to 2026
 - 115kV disconnect switch
 - Bus support structures (2)
 - 115kV instrument transformer stand
- Install conduit to new foundation locations as required – delayed to 2026
- Backfill station surface rock with specialized aggregate for substation use in areas disturbed by demo and construction work
 - Added scope: replace yard rock in the surrounding areas to provide uniform surface around equipment and comply with Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers best practices for substation grounding safety

Purchasing Process

On January 23, 2025, EWEB posted a formal ITB on the state of Oregon bid site, OregonBuys, as well as advertised in the Portland Daily Journal of Commerce. Two (2) bids were received from Wildish Building Company, Eugene, OR and Higher Ground Line Company of Eugene, OR. Higher Ground's bid was non-responsive as they failed to include a bid bond in time. Wildish Building Company provided a responsive and responsible bid and the Board approved the award of a contract on March 4, 2025.

Prior Contract Activities

EWEB Contract	Project Name (Description)	Board Approved	Project Duration (Start to Close)	Original Amount	Approved/Amended Amount to Date (Total)	Reason Code
22-060	Polk St Water Main Replacement	6/7/22	6/7/22-12/15/22	\$900,000	\$920,779	UC
22-107	Glenwood Site Access Road	8/2/22	8/8/23-11/15/22	\$261,000	\$233,449	
22-141	8 th Ave Water Main Replacement	9/6/22	9/7/23-1/15/23	\$396,000	\$428,428	UC
Reason Code: AM = Additional Materials, AW = Additional Work, EW= Emergency Work, SD = Staff Directed, UC = Unforeseen Conditions, Other						

ACTION REQUESTED:

Management requests the Board approve an increase to the contract with Wildish Building Company for construction services at Danebo Substation. Funds for this contract are accounted for in the 2025 Capital Plan of \$77.8 million. Variances will be managed within the budget process and Board policy.

BUDGET CATEGORY: Electric Capital, Type 1, Danebo Substation