

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
October 7, 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: Deborah Hart, Assistant General Manager/Chief Financial Officer; Brian Booth, Chief Energy Resource Officer; Karen Kelley, Chief Operations Officer; Diedre Williams, Chief People Officer; Adam Rue, Rates Manager; Julie McGaughey, Chief Customer Officer; Laura Farthing, Senior Engineer; TiaMarie Harwood, Financial Services Manager; Alicia Voorhees, Financial Planning and Analysis Supervisor; Daniel Davidson, Lead Financial Analyst; Lisa Krentz, Generation Manager; Laura Ohman, Chief Dam Safety Engineer; Susan Fricke, Water Resources Supervisor (online); and Lanie Mycoff, Mycoff Fry Partners LLC Managing Director (online).

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order

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

Agenda Check [00:20]

There were no changes to the agenda.

Items from Board Members and Assistant General Manager [00:34]

Commissioner Morris said it was a month of resiliency; he reported touring Blue River to see the progress that has been made, and attending the Kennedy Middle School Emergency Water Station Demonstration.

Vice President Schlossberg reported attending the McKenzie Electric Service Territory Realignment Meeting.

Commissioner Carlson acknowledged staff and Commissioner Morris on the success of the Kennedy Middle School Emergency Water Station Demonstration and reported attending the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) Annual Safety and Health Exposition.

President Barofsky reported attending the Eugene Chamber of Commerce Policy Forum Breakfast: The Oregon Approach to Wildfire.

Assistant General Manager/Chief Financial Officer Deborah Hart explained that wildfire season is officially over, and the utility has returned its electric system to normal settings. She acknowledged Public Power Week 2025 – October 5 through October 11. She recognized EWEB employees, Board of Commissioners (BOC), and customers.

Correspondence [5:23]

A PowerPoint slide displayed highlights from two correspondence items.

1. Bertelsen Project Update
2. McKenzie Valley Service Territory Realignment Study Update

Public Input: [6:23]

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.

Lily Leitermann, Manager of the Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District (Upper Willamette SWCD), expressed support for the Upper Willamette SWCD proposal and intergovernmental agreement (IGA).

Al Hrynysyn, Board Vice Chair of the Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District, spoke in favor of the Upper Willamette SWCD proposal and intergovernmental agreement (IGA).

Alan (Alfredo) Gormezano, Ward 1, voiced opposition to service fees. He raised concern about smart meters, specifically smart meter fees, and offered suggestions for improvement.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS**Approval of Consent Calendar – A, Minutes and Routine Contracts [17:21]****MINUTES**

1. September 2, 2025 Regular Session

CONTRACTS

2. General Pacific, Inc. – for 115kV Circuit Breakers \$3,200,000 based on Formal Request for Proposal

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 [17:43]**CONTRACTS**

3. Carollo Engineers, Inc. – for Engineering and Construction Management Services for the Willamette River Intake and Water Treatment Plant. \$12,950,000 (through December 2029) based on Formal Request for Proposal

4. Irby Utilities – for Douglas Fir Crossarms. \$410,000 (over 5-years) based on Formal Invitation to Bid

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

5. City of Eugene – for billing and collection services

RESOLUTIONS

6. Resolution No. 2517 – Annual Investment Policy Review

MOTION: Vice President Schlossberg moved to approve Consent Calendar B, minus Item 3 (Carollo Engineers, Inc.) and Item 5 (Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Eugene). The motion passed unanimously, 5:0:0; President Barofsky, Vice President Schlossberg, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Brown, and Commissioner Morris all voting in favor.

Items Removed from Consent Calendar [18:38]

Regarding the Carollo Engineers, Inc. contract for engineering and construction management service for the Willamette River Intake and Water Treatment Plant, Commissioner Carlson asked for a justification of the \$4 million difference between the two bids.

Chief Operations Officer Karen Kelley responded that their selection is based on the Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) procurement process.

Senior Engineer Laura Farthing elaborated that Oregon purchasing laws require consultant selection to be qualification-based. She said in this case, the price reflected 15% and the qualifications reflected 85% of the total score. Thus, Carollo Engineers, Inc. scored significantly higher based on their experience. She provided examples of regional projects that Carollo Engineers, Inc. has completed.

Regarding the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the City of Eugene, Commissioner Brown asked for more clarification about the net difference in the billing cost.

Ms. Hart responded with further details about annual adjustments (i.e. fee updates).

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to approve the Carollo Engineers, Inc. contract and the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the City of Eugene. 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 [25:44]

Ms. Kelley presented information about Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District Investments and Opportunities via PowerPoint presentation. She explained that in July 2025 EWEB received a request to provide funding in the amount of \$1 million to help fund conservation efforts regarding their planned purchase of the Rice Farms property. She noted that the property is located close upstream to EWEB's Hayden Bridge filtration plant.

Request

- 1 million investment over 5-7 years
 - Riparian/floodplain restoration
 - Green infrastructure for stormwater treatment
 - Cover cropping to support organic hazelnut production
 - Wetland enhancement and expansion projects
- EWEB approves use of funds on a project by project basis after other funding has been pursued and resources are known

Recommendation

- Direct staff to develop an IGA that incorporates support of the water quality and conservation efforts at Rice Farms through a combination of in-kind and monetary support
- Protects our investment by:
 - Ensure alignment with Source Water Protection Plan, existing priorities and partnerships
 - Ensure resources (staff and financial) are managed to achieve specific outcomes and metrics

Potential Board Action

1. Enter into a 5- or 7-year intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the District to commit \$1 million in funding *or*
2. Develop an IGA to incorporate support through a combination of in-kind and monetary support, consistent budgets and targeted outcomes, but not guarantee a specific dollar investment over the timeframe requested.

Staff engaged the Board in a discussion.

Commissioner Brown expressed his general support for an IGA with the District. He recommended amending Option #2 to include a cap of \$1 million.

Vice President Schlossberg said she supports Option #2 with no cap.

Commissioner Morris agreed with Vice President Schlossberg. He supports Option #2 with no cap.

Commissioner Carlson pointed out that while she is in favor of Option #2, she acknowledged that EWEB cannot assist in purchasing all the land around the waterway intake and at what point would the regulations that generally protect our waterways be considered enough. She suggested that other partners with regional water plants consider contributing funding.

President Barofsky provided comments in support of Option #1.

In response to questions from the Board, Water Resources Supervisor Susan Fricke provided further background information about the proposed IGA.

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to approve Option #2 – Develop an IGA to incorporate support through a combination of in-kind and monetary support, consistent budgets and targeted outcomes, but not guarantee a specific dollar investment over the timeframe requested. The motion passed, 4:1:0; Vice President Schlossberg, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Brown, and Commissioner Morris all voting in favor. President Barofsky voting against.

OTHER

General Manager Recruitment [54:54]

Chief People Officer Diedre Williams and Mycoff Fry Partners LLC Managing Director Lanie Mycoff provided a General Manager Transition: Recruitment Process and Standards update via PowerPoint presentation, including an updated recruitment timeline, hiring criteria, stakeholder feedback, job posting, and compensation range.

The recruitment timeline began in September 2025 and will continue through May 2026. Finalist interviews are expected to take place in mid-January.

In response to concerns about the timing of the short list interviews/finalist's selection, Ms. Mycoff assured the Board that the dates and format are flexible.

Ms. Mycoff provided an overview of hiring standards, including incorporating Board feedback on hiring criteria (i.e. ideal leadership and management competencies for the next General Manager).

Ms. Williams engaged the Board in a discussion about stakeholder feedback, specifically if a special listening session or survey tool should be utilized to secure community feedback.

Commissioner Morris voiced support of a survey tool for community feedback.

Vice President Schlossberg said a survey tool for community feedback feels performative.

Commissioner Brown and Commissioner Carlson both expressed that they are generally not supportive of a special listening session or survey tool for community feedback. They are, however, supportive of gathering key stakeholder and internal feedback.

President Barofsky agreed.

There was general consensus not to offer a special listening session or survey tool for community feedback; and to gather internal feedback.

Ms. Williams provided an overview of the General Manager job posting.

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to approve the job posting for use by Mycoff Fry Partners LLC in the General Manager recruitment process. The motion passed unanimously, 5:0:0; President Barofsky, Vice President Schlossberg, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Brown, and Commissioner Morris all voting in favor.

Ms. Williams provided an overview of the General Manager compensation range. The Board provided direction to proceed with a compensation range of \$350,000 - \$475,00 annually.

GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS

2026 Draft Electric and Water Budgets and Long-Term Financial Plan Updates [1:59:53]

Financial Services Manager TiaMarie Harwood, Financial Planning and Analysis Supervisor Alicia Voorhees, and Lead Financial Analyst Daniel Davidson provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding draft 2026 electric and water budgets and long-term financial plans, including an electric LTFP summary, a water LTFP summary, and a 2026 combined draft budget.

President Barofsky expressed concern around the projected electric rate increase for 2027 and inquired how an additional 1.1% increase in 2026 would affect the projection. Ms. Hart explained the 2027 rate trajectory was unmitigated and management is committed to looking for opportunities to mitigate it.

Next month, staff will provide a more detailed draft budget, including proposed pricing changes, and will hold a public hearing. A second public hearing and final adoption of the 2026 budget are scheduled for December 2025.

Annual Dam Safety Program Update [2:32:40]

Generation Manager Lisa Krentz and Chief Dam Safety Engineer Laura Ohman provided an Annual Dam Safety Program update via PowerPoint presentation. They provided information about EWEB's Owner's Dam Safety Program (ODSP), ODSP External Audit, FERC Annual Inspections and project updates (including Walterville Spillway Structure, Walterville Fish Screens, Smith Conduit Tunnel, and Trail Bridge Emergency Spillway), an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) update, and ODSP program challenges.

Ms. Krentz and Ms. Ohman briefly responded to questions from the Board.

Future Board Agendas [2:50:00]

President Barofsky requested a report regarding Ballot Measure 20-373 – Watersheds Bill of Rights.

Board Wrap Up [2:52:00]

There were no comments.

Adjourn [2:52:12]

President Barofsky adjourned the regular meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Recorded by Terah Van Dusen, LCOG

Assistant Secretary

President