

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
November 4, 2025
5:45 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; Adam Rue, Rates Manager; TiaMarie Harwood, Financial Services Manager; Alicia Voorhees, Financial Planning and Analysis Supervisor; Jason Heuser, Public Policy and Governmental Affairs Program Manager; and Kelly Hoell, Strategy Advisor.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order

President Barofsky called the regular meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

Agenda Check [00:30]

There were no changes to the agenda.

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

Vice President Schlossberg reported attending, along with President Barofsky, a joint meeting with Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) and the City of Eugene.

Commissioner Carlson reported on the success of EWEB's Truck or Treat event.

President Barofsky also reported attending the Truck or Treat event. He commended staff on last-minute event location changes. He attended a tour of the Quartz Creek Stage Zero Restoration and spoke about the benefits of the project, including water source protection.

General Manager Lawson echoed statements about the success of Truck or Treat. He thanked Commissioners for attending the tour of International Paper. Mr. Lawson brought attention to current economic challenges impacting members of the community who rely on the Limited Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and/or who are employed by the federal government. He said staff have been looking to implement actions and provide opportunities. He called on staff to offer more context.

Assistant General Manager/Chief Financial Officer Deborah Hart said the EWEB Customer Care Bill Assistance Program (ECC) has remained open without any service gaps. She said EWEB has E-share/crisis funds that are available to customers who are impacted by job loss or other special circumstances. She added that EWEB is looking to actively apply the \$280 ECC credit to recipients of LIHEAP who have yet to apply for ECC. She said customers would then be eligible to apply for ECC again in January. Beyond utility bill assistance, EWEB customer service agents have a list of resources available for community members.

Mr. Lawson added that staff will continue looking for options to support customers.

Correspondence [08:23]

Highlights from the following correspondences item were displayed via PowerPoint presentation.

1. General Manager Transition – Executive Recruitment Timeline
2. EWEB Role in City of Eugene Code Enforcement and Public Safety Disconnection Requests

Regarding Item #2, Commissioner Carlson thanked staff for looking into a constituent concern about the role that EWEB has in code enforcement and public safety disconnection requests.

Regarding Item #1, Vice President Schlossberg brought attention to the timeline schedule, particularly concerning the month of January.

Public Input: In-person or by Telephone [11:23]

Declan Zupo (virtual), Ward 3, provided comments related to the hiring of a new EWEB General Manager, including that the Board consider a candidate with a strong background in sustainability and climate action, experience and comfort working with a wide spectrum of community stakeholders, and a commitment to justice informed public processes. He offered suggestions for meeting EWEB's carbon neutrality goals.

Jim Neu, Ward 7, on behalf of the 350 Eugene Policy Team, provided comments related to the hiring of a new EWEB General Manager, specifically that the Board consider a candidate who is a climate justice advocate and has experience with locally sourced renewable energy.

Eric Dziura, Ward 6, thanked Commissioner Brown for arranging a tour of the Sierra Pacific Oregon Plant and provided comments related to the second source Willamette Water Treatment Plant proposal.

Linda Kelley, Ward 1, provided comments related to the hiring of a new EWEB General Manager, including that the Board consider a candidate who is forward-thinking and knowledgeable about emerging technologies.

Ken Jones, Ward 1, provided comments related to the hiring of a new EWEB General Manager, including that the Board consider a candidate who is focused on achieving EWEB's climate goals.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Consent Calendar – A [25:21]

MINUTES

1. October 7, 2025 Regular Session

CONTRACTS

2. Carte International Inc. – for Three Phase Network Transformers. \$1,750,000 (estimated over 5 years) based on Formal Request for Proposals.

3. WEST Consultants – for Compliance Monitoring Services at Stone Creek. \$150,000 (estimated over 5 years) based on Formal Request for Proposals.

MOTION: Commissioner Brown 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 of the motion.

Approval of Consent Calendar – B [25:43]

RESOLUTIONS

4. Resolution No. 2518 – Trojan Annual Operating Budget

MOTION: Commissioner Brown 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 of the motion.

Items Removed from Consent Calendar [27:24]

There were none.

GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS

City of Eugene Liaison Update [27:27]

Vice President Schlossberg provided an update from a meeting with the City of Eugene which included the topic of fire hydrants. She said progress is being made and EWEB staff will provide updates as they become available. They also discussed the second source Willamette Water Treatment Plant proposal.

Mr. Lawson added further context about the meeting, including that they discussed water resiliency, the mutual benefit of a second source to both Eugene and Springfield, and regional challenges. He said utility bill collection was also a topic of discussion and cited a recent change in how much EWEB will charge the City. He said the change will be implemented in July 2026.

President Barofsky highlighted the positive working relationship between EWEB and City of Eugene staff.

Upcoming-Year (2026) Proposed Budgets and Prices – Update [33:15]

Financial Services Manager TiaMarie Harwood, Rates Manager Adam Rue, Financial Planning and Analysis Supervisor Alicia Voorhees, and Ms. Hart presented the Upcoming-Year (2026) Proposed Budgets and Prices via PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Harwood provided an overview of the financial planning process. She said that last month staff presented updates made to the long-term financial plans and brought forth the 2026 draft budgets. Next is presenting the 2026 proposed budgets and prices for review and holding the first of two public hearings. After receiving direction from the Board, staff will prepare the final 2026 budgets and price proposals ahead of the December 2, 2025 board meeting.

She presented a table detailing the 2026 Combined Proposed Budget, totaling \$492.3 million for the electric and water utilities combined. She noted that costs continue to rise due to inflation, new regulatory requirements, and the need to replace or modernize aging infrastructure. Ms. Harwood said the coming year will require investments in critical capital projects and that financial planning helps EWEB make investments in a measured, responsible way, balancing near-term affordability with long-term sustainability.

Ms. Voorhees outlined priorities for both utilities in 2026, as follows:

2026 Water Initiatives/Priorities

O and M – \$31.9 million

- Watershed restoration
- Source protection
- Water treatment/pumping
- System maintenance/protection
- Bill assistance programs
- IT service / infrastructure

Capital – \$59.7 million

- Second water drinking source design
- College Hill tank and pipeline construction
- Transmission mains
- Advanced meter infrastructure
- EWEB Enterprise Solutions

2026 Electric Initiatives/Priorities

O and M – \$292.0 million

- Purchased power/transmission
- Leaburg decommissioning
- Dam safety
- Vegetation management
- System maintenance/protection
- Electrification incentives
- Efficiency and GHG reduction
- Bill assistance programs
- IT service/infrastructure
- Contributions in lieu of taxes

Capital – \$108.7 million

- Walterville forebay
- Leaburg canal near-term risk reduction
- Carmen-Smith license implementation
- Substation improvements
- Compliance-driven replacements
- Telecom equipment replacements
- EWEB Enterprise Solutions

Mr. Rue outlined overall revenue requirements, as follows:

Water

- 2026 Revenue Requirement increase of 6%
- Rate increases applied to both basic and volume
- Higher increase related to pumping costs for elevation classes
- Residential and General Service consistent with overall increase

Electric

- 2026 Revenue Requirement increase of 3.9% and BPA Power Cost Adjustment of 3.4%
- Establish McKenzie Valley Service Area rate classes
- Increased residential *fixed* charges to align with COSA
- Updates to Customer Generation Rates

He outlined Water 2026 Proposed Prices, as follows:

(including a table detailing bill impacts for residential and general service)

- Overall: 6%
- Residential: 5.1%
- General Service: 6.7%
- Water Districts: 8.2%
- Willamette Water: 0%
- City of Veneta: 4.5%
- Elevation: 11.3%

He outlined Electric 2026 Proposed Prices, as follows:

(including a table detailing bill impacts for residential and small general service)

- Overall: 3.9%
- Residential: 4.4%
- Small General Service: 1.4%
- Medium General Service: 3.2%
- Large General Service: 2.3%
- Street Lighting: 5.7%
- Private Lighting: 0%

He outlined McKenzie Valley Service Territory Electric 2026 Proposed Prices, as follows:

*effective June 1, 2026

- Residential: 20.8%
- Small General Service: 14.4%
- Medium General Service: 9%

Mr. Rue provided a table illustrating EWEB affordability (i.e. average monthly electric and water rate) comparisons, noting that the average increase for electricity will be \$3/month and the average increase for water will be \$2/month. He added that the average combined impact of both the adjustments is \$5/month, in addition to the roughly \$6/month increase with the electric utility for the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) pass through.

Staff opened the floor to questions and comments from the Board.

Commissioner Brown commented that residential rate increases are impacting EWEB's affordability status in comparison with other utilities. He suggested looking forward that EWEB work to keep rates low.

Commissioners sought clarification from staff regarding fixed rate increases.

Mr. Rue and Mr. Lawson provided explanations for why the fixed rate increases were not proposed to be implemented incrementally.

Vice President Schlossberg requested an updated affordability table, depicting the average monthly electric bill and average monthly water bill for all comparable cities, once other utilities also raise their rates.

Ms. Hart responded affirmatively.

President Barofsky remarked that proposed rate increases are regressive, specifically for smaller account holders.

Mr. Lawson responded that previous Board direction was to first align with costs and then develop incentives.

President Barofsky acknowledged Mr. Lawson's point.

Commissioner Carlson suggested gradualism issuing the fixed rate charge.

In closing, Mr. Lawson stated that there will be an update on customer programs at next month's meeting. He said it is important to examine rates in combination with the programs. Mr. Lawson committed to presenting additional scenarios and bringing more information to the Board.

Public Hearing on Upcoming-Year (2026) Proposed Budgets and Prices [1:27:30]

President Barofsky opened the public hearing at 7:13 p.m.

There were no individuals present for public comment.

President Barofsky closed the public hearing at 7:13 p.m.

Upcoming-Year (2026) Proposed Budgets and Prices – Direction [1:28:30]

President Barofsky, Vice President Schlossberg, and Commissioner Brown voiced support for the proposed budget and prices.

Commissioner Carlson and Commissioner Morris voiced support for gradualism concerning residential fixed rates.

The Board reached consensus in favor of the proposed budget and prices.

Upcoming-Year Legislative Session Preview and Legislative Position Proposals [1:37:30]

Public Policy and Governmental Affairs Program Manager Jason Heuser presented an Upcoming-Year Legislative Session Preview and Legislative Position Proposal via PowerPoint presentation.

Key Issue: Carbon Cap and Trade Bill Draft

- **Electricity Point of Regulation:** draft has in-state generation sources regulated at the source; imported electricity regulated at “First Jurisdictional Deliverer”
- **Regional Linkage:** the compatibility of the draft concept with California and Washington programs looks favorable for linkage, however some work remains (i.e. specified source definitions).
- **Allowances:** EWEB and other consumer-owned utilities will be allocated free allowances on basis of load/emission forecasts
- **Revenue Recycling:** Unknown

Mr. Heuser noted that the bill will have a better chance of passing in the 2027 long session.

Regarding revenue recycling, Mr. Heuser cited a 2017 EWEB co-sponsored study examining least cost policy approaches to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. He said revenue recycling is a key component that makes carbon pricing a least cost policy. He added that it has been a principal for EWEB to support least cost approaches. Mr. Heuser emphasized the importance of revenue recycling. He said it is unknown to what extent revenue recycling will be a component of the program.

Solar Consumer Protection

Reintroduction of HB 3955 from 2025 Legislative Session (Consensus Support, including Oregon Solar Industries Association)

- 72 Hour Consumer Right to Cancel
- Required Model Written Disclosure (i.e. good faith utility bill savings estimate using local utility rate and policy on disposition of surplus net metered generation, performance during power outages, tax credit transparency)
- Increased DOJ enforcement authority
- New enhanced private right of action as deterrent

Mr. Heuser noted that the bill is likely to pass.

Wildfire Liability

- Still a crucial issue
- Expected to be addressed in 2027

Mr. Heuser briefly responded to questions from the Board.

McKenzie Valley Territory Realignment Recommendation [2:14:00]

Mr. Lawson provided an update about the McKenzie Valley Territory Realignment Recommendation.

The realignment originated as a McKenzie Valley Territory study in cooperation with Lane Electric Cooperative. He said Lane Electric Cooperative recently authorized their general manager to negotiate the potential purchase of assets in the McKenzie Valley and the transfer of EWEB's service territory in that region. He noted that there are a number of steps remaining.

Mr. Lawson stated that the potential options look promising. He is prepared to bring a resolution to the Board in December. He said EWEB has upwards of 3,000 customers within the territory.

Mr. Lawson engaged the Board in a brief discussion.

President Barofsky emphasized the importance of adequate communications, citing the significance of the McKenzie River territory in EWEB's history. He suggested clear communications about continued McKenzie River water source protection.

Mr. Lawson validated President Barofsky's point.

Commissioner Brown noted the benefit of a significant reduction in carbon.

Mr. Lawson agreed.

Mr. Lawson said next steps include a review by the Steering Committee and the Risk Management Committee.

EWEB GHG Inventory 2024 Results using updated protocols and implications on Board Policies SD2 Environmental Policy / SD15 Climate Change Policy [2:33:44]

Mr. Lawson and Strategic Advisor Kelly Hoell introduced EWEB GHG Inventory 2024 Results using updated protocols and implications on Board Policies SD2 Environmental Policy / SD15 Climate Change Policy via PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Hoell presented a big picture summary:

- Prior: reported only operational emissions
- Current: use industry-specific protocols for wider set of boundaries
- This work supports EWEB's Strategic Compass:
 - **2025 Goal 6:** Implement 2023 Energy Resource Action Plan. Complete and begin implementing 2025 Energy Resource Plan.
 - **2025 Goal 10:** Evaluate and prepare for opportunities to influence consumption behavior.

- This work will allow EWEB to answer the following:
 - Where can EWEB take direct action to reduce emissions?
 - Where can EWEB enhance its partnerships?
 - How can EWEB track its progress towards Board Policies/targets?

Ms. Hoell presented a bar graph detailing 2024 Emissions Results by Operational Category and key takeaways:

1. Largest emissions sources are associated with power delivery
2. Power Delivery emissions are large and come from market purchases
3. EWEB offers two products: power and water. Water delivery is not included in operations emissions.
4. EWEB operations matter, but the scale is smaller than other sources.

Ms. Hoell outlined lessons learned:

- Where EWEB can take direct action to reduce emissions
 - Power Delivery:
 - Explore biofuel opportunities to reduce fossil fuel use
 - Reduce unspecified market purchases when possible
 - Water Delivery: Energy efficiency in water facilities and leak detection.
 - Operations: Electrified light-duty fleet.
- Where EWEB can enhance its partnerships
 - Enhanced understanding and data clarity with Department of Environmental Quality, Energy Information Administration, Bonneville Power Administration, International Paper, etc.
- How EWEB can track progress towards its goals
 - Revise board policies SD2 & SD15 in 2026 to conform to EWEB's new methods.
 - Explore what it would take to achieve 'neutrality'.

Ms. Hoell outlined SD15 Climate Change Policy. The following primary directives are adopted:

- **Power Generation:** Target 95% carbon-free resources by 2030
- **EWEB Operations:** Reduce operational scope 1+2 GHG emissions relative to 2010 baseline by:
 - 25% reduction by 2020
 - 50% reduction by 2030
 - Carbon neutral by 2050
- **Climate Policy, Customer Decarbonization, and Impacts on EWEB:** No target set by SD15. Climate Guidebook reports activity.

Ms. Hoell presented a bar graph detailing SD15 Adherence: Power Generation and key takeaways:

1. In 2024, about 94% of EWEB's power came from carbon-free resources.
2. Target: 95% carbon-free by 2030.

Ms. Hoell presented a bar graph detailing SD15 Adherence: EWEB 2024 Operations Emissions, noting that EWEB has achieved the 2020 goal of 25% emissions reduction over the 2010

baseline and the 2030 goal of a 50% reduction since 2023. She said the next milestone is to reach carbon neutrality regarding scope one and scope two operational emissions.

Ms. Hoell engaged the Board in a robust discussion about EWEB policies, namely the SD15 Climate Change Policy and SD2 Environmental Policy. She posed several questions to the Board to guide future discussions and received feedback about potentially combining SD15 and SD2 into one policy.

Future Board Agendas [3:22:44]

President Barofsky requested information about the upcoming Lane County Watershed Bill of Rights ballot measure.

Commissioner Brown requested an update regarding smart meter investments.

Board Wrap Up [3:23:33]

There was none.

Adjourn [3:23:55]

President Barofsky adjourned the regular meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Assistant Secretary

President

Recorded by Terah Van Dusen, LCOG