

**EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
February 3, 2026
5:45 p.m.**

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Others Present: Frank Lawson, General Manager; Deborah Hart, Assistant General Manager/Chief Financial Officer; Diedre Williams, Chief People Officer; Aaron Balmer, Financial Services Manager; and Lanie Mycoff, Mycoff Fry Partners LLC Managing Director (online)

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order [00:00:00]

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

Agenda Check [00:00:05]

Due to an influx of public input, there was discussion amongst the Board of Commissioners to reduce individual testimony to two minutes and allow for a maximum of one hour for public comment.

MOTION: Commissioner Barofsky moved to reduce individual testimony to two minutes and allow a maximum of one hour for public comment. Commissioner Morris seconded. **The motion passed, 4:0:1; President Brown, Commissioner Barofsky, Commissioner Schlossberg, and Commissioner Morris voting in favor; Vice President Carlson abstained.**

Items from Board Members and General Manager [00:04:37]

General Manager Lawson thanked Assistant General Manager Deborah Hart for filling in during his absence.

Correspondence [00:05:50]

Highlights from the following correspondence items were displayed via PowerPoint presentation:

1. 2026 State Legislative Session Update
 - Session convened yesterday and will adjourn no later than March 9
 - Status of EWEB Legislative Agenda as Adopted in December:
 - Monitoring: Cap and Trade, Virtual Power Plants, and Nuclear Energy Study
 - Supporting: Solar Consumer Protection Legislation
 - Neutral/Amend: Balcony Solar
2. Willamette Treatment Plant Progress Report
 - Update on progress of work items moved forward since last report

General Public Input: In-person or by Telephone [00:06:00]

Andrew Simrin (online), Ward 7, provided testimony in opposition to the EWEB and University of Oregon energy generation pilot project.

Rio Davidson (online) provided testimony in favor of Measure 20-373 – Lane County Watershed Bill of Rights.

Victor Odlivak (online) provided testimony in favor of Measure 20-373 – Lane County Watershed Bill of Rights.

Emma Bartlett (online), Ward 7, provided testimony in opposition to the EWEB and University of Oregon energy generation pilot project.

Jack Dodson (online) provided testimony in opposition to the EWEB and University of Oregon energy generation pilot project.

Andrea Stapleton (online), Ward 8, provided testimony on behalf of the Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP) in favor of Measure 20-373 – Lane County Watershed Bill of Rights.

Isa Eisenburg (online) provided testimony on behalf of members of the Climate Justice League in opposition to the EWEB and University of Oregon energy generation pilot project.

Drew Thomas (online) provided testimony in favor of Measure 20-373 – Lane County Watershed Bill of Rights.

Gene Enos (in-person), Ward 4, provided testimony against smart meter fees and in opposition to the EWEB and University of Oregon energy generation pilot project.

Rob Dickinson (in-person) provided testimony in favor of Measure 20-373 – Lane County Watershed Bill of Rights.

Aerin Nilsen (in-person) provided testimony in favor of Measure 20-373 – Lane County Watershed Bill of Rights.

Jere C. Rosemeyer (in-person), Ward 8, provided testimony in favor Measure 20-373 – Lane County Watershed Bill of Rights.

Christina Shew (in-person) provided comments related to Measure 20-373 – Lane County Watershed Bill of Rights.

Eric Dziura (in-person), Ward 6, provided comments related to Measure 20-373 – Lane County Watershed Bill of Rights.

Janet Ayres (in-person) provided comments related to rate increases and the Customer Care Program.

Katie Geiser (in-person) provided testimony in favor of Measure 20-373 – Lane County Watershed Bill of Rights.

Michelle Holman (in-person) provided testimony in favor of Measure 20-373 – Lane County Watershed Bill of Rights.

Lily Pearl Johnson (in-person), Ward 7, provided testimony in favor of Measure 20-373 – Lane County Watershed Bill of Rights.

Bernadette Bourassa (in-person) provided testimony in favor of Measure 20-373 – Lane County Watershed Bill of Rights.

Jim Neu (in-person), Ward 7, provided comments related to the EWEB and University of Oregon energy generation pilot project.

Nick Squires (in-person), Ward 7, provided testimony in favor of Measure 20-373 – Lane County Watershed Bill of Rights.

Mark Robinowitz provided comments related to Measure 20-373 – Lane County Watershed Bill of Rights.

Sue Pileggi (in-person), Ward 6, provided testimony in favor of Measure 20-373 – Lane County Watershed Bill of Rights.

Santiago Gause (in-person), Ward 1, provided testimony in favor of Measure 20-373 – Lane County Watershed Bill of Rights.

Katja Kohler-Gause (in-person) provided testimony in favor of Measure 20-373 – Lane County Watershed Bill of Rights.

Jenny Bohrman (in-person) provided testimony in favor of Measure 20-373 – Lane County Watershed Bill of Rights.

Dillon Thomson (in-person), Ward 1, provided testimony in favor of Measure 20-373 – Lane County Watershed Bill of Rights.

Commissioner Schlossberg thanked members of the public for providing testimony. She stated that while she is against aerial spraying, she feels that Measure 20-373 is too broad.

Commissioner Barofsky remarked that the EWEB and University of Oregon energy generation pilot project was created to gather data and is not an ongoing, implemented policy.

Vice President Carlson thanked members of the public for providing testimony. She suggested moving the conversation about Measure 20-373 further up in the agenda.

President Brown emphasized his longstanding advocacy protecting the local watershed and stated that he would have preferred being engaged in discussions about Measure 20-373 sooner.

Given public interest in agenda item No. 10, there was consensus to move Items No. 5, 6 and 7 – Approval of the Consent Calendar(s) and Item No. 9 – Resolutions No. 2602 and 2603 to follow No.10 Resolution No. 2607 – Watershed Bill of Rights – Lane County Measure 20-373.

BOARD ACTION AND GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS

General Manager Recruitment (No Memo) [01:12:47]

President Brown provided an update related to the General Manager recruitment process. He explained that the EWEB Board of Commissioners, with assistance from Mycoff Fry Partners, held a robust selection process. Initially, there were 18 applicants for the General Manager position. He said that seven applicants were selected for shortlist interviews, and two finalists (Candidate A and Candidate B) were selected for a second round of interviews.

Commissioners expressed their satisfaction with the General Manager recruitment process.

President Brown invited Commissioners to state their preference for Candidate A or Candidate B.

Commissioners unanimously expressed favor for Candidate A, citing their qualifications, experience, and aligning values.

MOTION: President Brown moved to authorize the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) Chief People Officer, with support of general counsel, to negotiate a contingent employment contract with John Hairston of Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) in alignment with current market practices and the compensation levels approved by the Board on October 7, 2025. Negotiated initial employment contract will be subject to review and final Board decision at a future Board meeting. Commissioner Barofsky seconded. **The motion passed unanimously, 5:0:0; President Brown, Vice President Carlson, Commissioner Barofsky, Commissioner Schlossberg, and Commissioner Morris all voting in favor of the motion.**

Resolution No. 2607 – Watershed Bill of Rights – Lane County Measure 20-373 [01:24:34]

Commissioner Barofsky engaged the Board in a discussion about Resolution No. 2607, relating to Lane County Measure 20-373 – Watershed Bill of Rights.

He acknowledged public comments about mitigating aerial spraying; but pointed to the vagueness of the ballot measure and potential unintended consequences to EWEB and its ratepayers. Commissioner Barofsky presented a draft Resolution and received feedback from fellow Commissioners at a previous Board meeting, held on January 6, 2026. Commissioners' input along with input from legal counsel was used to craft Resolution No. 2607, which was before the Board at the February 3, 2026 Board meeting.

Vice President Carlson described the measures she has taken to review and research the proposed Watershed Bill of Rights. She reaffirmed her commitment to watershed protection and expressed a desire to collect more information about the measure. She suggested the Board consider delaying the vote until their next Board meeting.

Commissioner Morris also reaffirmed his commitment to watershed protection. He shared his perspective that the measure is incomplete and broad. He said he would be in favor of either voting or delaying the vote to receive more information.

Commissioner Schlossberg said she would also be in favor of delaying the vote to receive more information.

President Brown said he appreciates the intent but agrees that Measure 20-373 is vaguely written. He cited the risk associated with potential lawsuits. He expressed that it was unfortunate the Board was not included in earlier conversations about the Measure.

Commissioner Barofsky agreed, stating that he is in favor of the intent but in disagreement about the implementation of the measure.

Regarding Vice President Carlson's suggestion to delay the vote, President Brown recommended receiving collective input on details of the measure.

Responding to a question posed by Commissioner Barofsky, Vice President Carlson responded that her intent is to consult with legal counsel, receive information about similar measures elsewhere, and learn specifically how the measure will protect EWEB's work.

MOTION: Vice President Carlson moved to delay voting on Resolution No. 2607 until the next regularly scheduled Board meeting in March 2026. Commissioner Morris seconded. **The motion passed, 4:1:0; Vice President Carlson, Commissioner Barofsky, Commissioner Schlossberg, and Commissioner Morris voting in favor; President Brown voting against.**

Approval of Consent Calendar A – Minutes and Routine Contracts [01:55:39]

MINUTES

1. a. January 6, 2026 Regular Session
- b. January 12, 2026 Executive Session
- c. January 13, 2026 Executive Session

CONTRACTS

2. Key Line Construction and Wilson Construction Company – for additional funds for Electric Line Crew Services. \$3,000,000 based on Formal Invitation to Bid (Original Contract Amount \$5,000,000, Resulting Cumulative Total \$8,000,000 over 5-years between both contracts).

MOTION: Commissioner Barofsky moved to approve Consent Calendar A. Commissioner Morris seconded. **The motion passed unanimously, 5:0:0; President Brown, Vice President Carlson, Commissioner Barofsky,**

Commissioner Schlossberg, and Commissioner Morris all voting in favor of the motion.

**Approval of Consent Calendar B – Nonroutine Contracts and Other Consent Items
[01:56:10]**

CONTRACTS

3. Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories (SEL) – for a new master product and services agreement for Generation and Substation Communication Systems. \$2,500,000 (Over 4-years) based on Direct Negotiation (Sole Source).

RESOLUTIONS

4. Resolution No. 2606 – Board Appointments, Committees, Outside Liaisons.

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

Items Removed from Consent Calendar [01:56:36]

There were none.

Resolution No. 2602 and 2603 – Requesting City of Eugene authorization for issue of Electric and Water Revenue Bonds [01:56:40]

Assistant General Manager/Chief Financial Officer Deborah Hart and Financial Services Manager Aaron Balmer presented Resolution No. 2602 and 2603 – Requesting City of Eugene authorization for issue of Electric and Water Revenue Bonds via PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Balmer presented information pertaining to the Bond Issuance Process, as follows:

February

- Board approval – resolution to go to City Council
- City Council authorization

March – April

- Public Notice
- Prepare preliminary official statement

May

- Board approval – supplemental resolution to issue bonds
 - Electric - \$113 million, new and refunding
 - Water - \$58 million, new and refunding

June

- Bond issuance/sale

He highlighted the need to borrow to support electric and water capital projects, as follows:

Electric – \$113 million

- Carmen Smith
- Waltherville
- Substation upgrades
- Transmission upgrades

Water – \$58 million

- College Hill reservoir
- Mains
- Bertelsen expansion
- Willamette Treatment Plant Design

Mr. Balmer presented two bar graphs (one for electricity and one for water) depicting estimated debt services over the next thirty years. He closed by stating that borrowing is used to manage rate affordability and is a prudent financial step when used strategically to support significant capital projects.

After responding to questions from the Board, Ms. Hart and Mr. Balmer recommended approval of Resolution No. 2602 and 2603.

MOTION: Commissioner Barofsky moved to adopt Resolution 2602.
Commissioner Morris seconded. **The motion passed unanimously, 5:0:0; President Brown, Vice President Carlson, Commissioner Barofsky, Commissioner Schlossberg, and Commissioner Morris all voting in favor of the motion.**

MOTION: Commissioner Barofsky moved to adopt Resolution 2603.
Commissioner Morris seconded. **The motion passed unanimously, 5:0:0; President Brown, Vice President Carlson, Commissioner Barofsky, Commissioner Schlossberg, and Commissioner Morris all voting in favor of the motion.**

Resolution No. 2608 – Board Policy Manual Update [02:25:18]

Mr. Lawson introduced Resolution No. 2608 – Board Policy Manual Update. He mentioned that proposed revisions were previously forwarded to the Board for review.

He highlighted the following draft language for discussion:

- Any communication by a commissioner to the media which espouses an individual viewpoint on an EWEB-related subject matter should be represented as the commissioner's own viewpoint, made clear it does not represent the position of the Board, and should be shared with fellow commissioners and the General Manager well in advance (typically 48 hours) of expected publication.

- In the event the EWEB-related matter is on an upcoming board agenda, the notification should be provided to the General Manager's Office who shall notify board members within the parameters of public meeting laws.

After receiving further clarification from staff, Commissioners expressed no reservations with the suggested Board Policy Manual updates.

MOTION: Vice President Carlson moved to approve Resolution No. 2608 – Board Policy Manual Update. Commissioner Schlossberg seconded. **The motion passed unanimously, 5:0:0; President Brown, Vice President Carlson, Commissioner Barofsky, Commissioner Schlossberg, and Commissioner Morris all voting in favor of the motion.**

EWEB/City of Eugene Joint Initiatives Agenda [02:42:27]

President Brown and Mr. Lawson presented the EWEB/City of Eugene Joint Initiatives Agenda, as follows:

1. City of Eugene authorization for issue of Electric and Water Revenue Bonds
2. EWEB's proposed update and changes to the Public Facilities Service Plan (PFSP) and/or other plans required for permitting and land-use changes supporting a second water treatment plant on the Willamette River in Glenwood
3. Project(s) of Public Interest: College Hill Water Storage, Willamette Treatment Plant, Decommissioning Leaburg Hydroelectric Project, McKenzie Valley Service Territory Allocation
4. Programs of public interest and potential partnership. Examples including, but not limited to: resiliency, energy efficiency, and assistance for limited income.
5. Rate Design
6. Water Supply Master Plan
7. Energy Supply Planning
8. Quarterly results, including EWEB's CAP2.0 reporting metrics
9. Fire Hydrant Ownership
10. Explore opportunities to support City with encouraging economic development and affordable housing

Commissioners discussed the proposed joint agenda.

Commissioner Morris recommended adding a discussion on the City's climate goals to the joint agenda.

Commissioner Schlossberg emphasized soliciting agenda items/information from the City.

Mr. Lawson responded affirmatively and clarified that staff would add soliciting information from the City of Eugene including the status of the CAP 2.0 (Climate Action Plan), issues of interest from EWEB's perspective, and future actions by the City that may affect EWEB.

MOTION: Commissioner Barofsky moved to approve the EWEB/City of Eugene Joint Initiatives Agenda. Commissioner Morris seconded. **The motion passed unanimously, 5:0:0; President Brown, Vice President Carlson,**

Commissioner Barofsky, Commissioner Schlossberg, and Commissioner Morris all voting in favor of the motion.

Future Board Agendas [03:00:00]

Commissioner Barofsky reiterated that the Board reserved time on the next regular meeting agenda for further discussion of Measure 20-373 – Lane County Watershed Bill of Rights.

Mr. Lawson added that additional time may be allotted for public testimony. Commissioner Barofsky sought clarification about the process for seeking information from legal counsel.

Mr. Lawson said he would look into it.

Board Wrap Up [03:05:05]

Commissioner Schlossberg concluded that it is exciting to welcome a new EWEB General Manager.

President Brown is scheduled to present at City Club of Eugene on February 10, 2026. He mentioned that he will be travelling to Washington D.C. March 21 through 23, 2026.

Adjourn [03:13:54]

President Brown adjourned the regular meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Assistant Secretary

President

Recorded by Terah Van Dusen, Lane Council of Governments (LCOG)