

**EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
March 3, 2026
5:30 p.m.**

Commissioners Present: President John Brown, Vice President Sonya Carlson, 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; Lisa Krentz, Chief Electric Operations Officer; and Gary Lentsch, Fleet Supervisor

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order [00:00:00]

President Brown called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Agenda Check [00:00:05]

There were no changes to the agenda.

Items From the Board and General Manager [00:01:20]

Commissioner Morris reported that Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) is hosting a fundraising dinner to support their Senior Meals Program on March 6, 2026 at the Cottage Grove Armory. He mentioned touring the inside of the College Hill water storage tank.

Vice President Carlson passed along recommendations from constituents related to smart meter fees and improving the billing system.

Commissioner Barofsky provided a report from the McKenzie Watershed Council, including that at their last meeting they received a presentation regarding a University of Oregon and EWEB study related to carbon sequestration and habitat restoration. He said the findings were encouraging.

President Brown reported on representing EWEB during a recent trip to Washington D.C. Discussions included concerns about privatizing Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), dam performance on the Willamette River, and potential rate impacts due to litigations at the state level. He also reported touring the inside of the College Hill water storage tank. He mentioned activity which will impact flow on the McKenzie River beginning March 6, 2026. President Brown said may not be available to attend the October 2026 meeting.

Correspondence [00:10:35]

A PowerPoint slide displayed highlights from the following correspondence item:

1. State Legislative Update (Board Policy GP13 & Resolution No. 2523)

Public Input: In-person or by Telephone [00:11:10]

Doug Myers, Ward 6, (via telephone) expressed support of Lane County Watersheds Bills of Rights – Measure 20-373.

Rob Dickinson expressed support of Lane County Watersheds Bills of Rights – Measure 20-373.

Nick Squires expressed support of Lane County Watersheds Bills of Rights – Measure 20-373.

Aerin Nilsen expressed support of Lane County Watersheds Bills of Rights – Measure 20-373.

Sue Pileggi, Ward 6, expressed support of Lane County Watersheds Bills of Rights – Measure 20-373.

Katie Geiser expressed support of Lane County Watersheds Bills of Rights – Measure 20-373.

Peter Dragovich, Ward 5, expressed support of Lane County Watersheds Bills of Rights – Measure 20-373.

Michelle Holman expressed support of Lane County Watersheds Bills of Rights – Measure 20-373.

Bernadette Bourassa expressed support of Lane County Watersheds Bills of Rights – Measure 20-373.

Jim Neu, Ward 7, expressed support of Lane County Watersheds Bills of Rights – Measure 20-373.

Patricia Hine, on behalf of 350 Eugene, expressed support of Lane County Watersheds Bills of Rights – Measure 20-373.

Joel Moll, on behalf of McKenzie River Trust, thanked General Manager Lawson for his leadership and encouraged further partnership between EWEB and McKenzie River Trust.

Vice President Carlson thanked those who provided public testimony regarding Lane County Watersheds Bills of Rights – Measure 20-373. She reaffirmed her commitment to protecting watersheds. She said she met with proponents of Measure 20-373, attended two related forums, and received feedback from EWEB legal counsel. Vice President Carlson concluded that while she agrees with the intent of the measure, if passed it could harm existing watershed protection efforts and potentially impact ratepayers.

BOARD ACTION AND GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS

Resolution No. 2607 – Watershed Bill of Rights – Lane County Measure 20-373 [00:51:45]

President Brown engaged the Board in a discussion of Resolution No. 2607 regarding the Watershed Bill of Rights – Lane County Measure 20-373.

Commissioner Schlossberg agreed with petitioners that industrial and agricultural runoff and pollution need to be addressed. She provided examples of how EWEB has been an excellent steward of the watershed. She said after hearing from EWEB attorneys, the ballot measure is too broad, citing the possibility for increased litigation. Commissioner Schlossberg said she would welcome another iteration of the measure.

Commissioner Morris reaffirmed EWEB's responsibility to its ratepayers and the environment. While aligning with the intent of the measure, he agreed with other commissioners that the measure language is too broad. He voiced his specific concerns with supporting the measure, including the potential to impact rates and existing programs.

Commissioner Barofsky agreed with commissioners. He concluded that after having researched the measure, it has impacts beyond what the petitioners are hoping to achieve.

President Brown reaffirmed his longstanding commitment to protecting local watersheds. Regarding the proposed measure, he cited ambiguity and uncertainty. He agreed with Commissioner Schlossberg that he would welcome another iteration of the measure.

Vice President Carlson had no additional comments regarding Resolution No. 2607.

MOTION: President Brown moved to approve Resolution No. 2607 regarding Lane County Watersheds Bill of Rights – Measure 20-373.

The motion passed unanimously, 5:0:0; President Brown, Vice President Carlson, Commissioner Schlossberg, Commissioner Barofsky, and Commissioner Morris all voting in favor.

Approval of Consent Calendar – A, Minutes and Routine Contracts [01:03:50]

MINUTES

1. a. January 30, 2026 Executive Session
- b. February 3, 2026 Regular Session
- c. February 17, 2026 Special Meeting

CONTRACTS

2. Dell Marketing – for additional funds for computer hardware, software, and support. \$1,500,000 (through 6/30/2029) (expected spend \$3,000,000 over 7 years) under the Midwestern Higher Education Cooperative Contract.
3. Global Rental Company (Altec) – for the use of a cooperative contract for one (1) Altec Insulated Backyard Digger Derrick – \$267,000.
4. Oregon Woods Inc., Northwest Reforestation LLC, and Habitat Contracting LLC – for as-needed vegetation management services on EWEB owned or controlled properties. \$750,000 (resulting cumulative total \$750,000 between 3 contracts over 5-years) based on formal invitation to bid.

5. RWC Group – for the use of a cooperative contract for one (1) International Dump Truck – \$212,000 (one-time).

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

Items Removed from Consent Calendar [01:04:27]

Commissioner Barofsky sought more information about Item 5, an RWC Group cooperative contract for one International dump truck. He requested a future memorandum on the item. He asked about the replacement schedule for dump trucks.

General Manager Lawson responded that replacing dump trucks can depend on the hours of the vehicle, not just the years.

Fleet Supervisor Gary Lentsch agreed. He added that the typical replacement on a dump truck starts as early as 15 years. He said the dump truck they are recommending be replaced is 20 years old. He added further context about their recommendation, including challenges getting the dump truck up to speed.

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

Approval of Consent Calendar – B, Nonroutine Contracts and Other Consent Items [01:10:18]

CONTRACTS

6. capSpire, Inc. – for Commodity Transaction and Risk Management (CTRM) support services. \$300,000 (resulting cumulative total: \$1,120,000) based on direct negotiation.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS

7. Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) – for additional funds for Geographic Information System (GIS) services. \$210,000 (includes spend over last approval) (resulting cumulative total: \$660,000) based on direct negotiation.

OTHER

8. EWEB/City of Eugene Joint Initiatives Agenda

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

Jacobs dba CH2M Hill for Carmen-Smith Engineering Services – Increase to Contract for Design Services [01:10:30]

Chief Electric Operations Officer Lisa Krentz provided information related to Jacobs dba CH2M Hill for Carmen-Smith Engineering Services, specifically increasing the spending limit.

Ms. Krentz explained that the scope has expanded over time due to dam safety concern mandates and regulatory requirements for protected species. The increase in scope has created additional costs. She said they are requesting funds of \$4.55 million to authorize work already underway and an additional \$3.6 million for a revised location of the trap-and-hall facility, the Smith spillway expansion project, and updating seismic requirements.

She said they share the Board's concern about cost. While they do not have fully updated construction cost estimates yet, they are including estimated costs for design and construction in the Capital Improvement Plan progress report in July. Once they have the construction cost estimates, a comprehensive update will be provided.

Responding to cost concerns raised by President Brown, Ms. Krentz said the contractor has been working on the project for a long time and they have site-specific knowledge that they incorporate into the designs. She said getting another contractor up-to-speed would likely not be cost effective.

President Brown challenged the contract renewal on the basis of increased costs to rate payers. He sought additional information.

Ms. Krentz responded that if the contract were not approved, they would not be able to advance work on license required projects. The alternative could cost rate payers more over time.

Commissioner Barofsky asked where the funds will come from.

Assistant General Manager Deborah Hart responded that the project will be primarily bond funded.

Commissioner Barofsky asked if the Smith Reservoir will open this year.

Ms. Krentz responded affirmatively.

MOTION: Commissioner Barofsky moved to approve Jacobs dba CH2M for Carmen-Smith Engineering Services – Increase to Contract for Design Services. The motion passed unanimously, 5:0:0; President Brown, Vice President Carlson, Commissioner Schlossberg, Commissioner Barofsky, and Commissioner Morris all voting in favor.

State of the Utility / Q4 2025 Year-End Results – Operational and Strategic Goals Report [01:35:08]

General Manger Lawson provided a State of the Utility / Q4 2025 Year-End Results – Operational and Strategic Goals Report via PowerPoint presentation, including financial performance, safety/wellness, reliability, workforce, and community impact.

Financial Performance

- Solid financial performance despite low water year (electric generation)
- Board financial metrics within target (policy); except return on net book value; current ratio
- Rates (2026 revenue requirement): 3.9% electric, 6.0% water
- Affordability factor at 3.2 (both water and electric – energy only “burden” is 6.0%)

He provided a graph detailing how the customer care budget adjusts with budget/other sources.

Safety/Wellness

- Outstanding DART rate performance (vs. National, Top 3 EWEB History)
- Injury/time loss below 3-yr. average and national averages
- “Good Catch” reporting strong
- 100% workforce completion of Oregon OSHA trainings
- Wellness program participation of 70% in 2025, up from 52% in 2024
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP) utilization increased in 2025

Reliability

- 3.14 million MWh, 8.23 billion gallons of drinking water delivered
- EWEB’s hydro generation availability at 45%
- Electric delivery reliability consistent and better than most benchmarks; vegetation backlog declining
- Watershed monitoring continues; finished water quality remained excellent
- Water delivery consistent and better than most benchmarks; outages spiked in Q3 and Q4

He provided a graph detailing the percentage of customers who experienced planned or unplanned power outages.

Workforce Updates/Trends

- Conducted market assessment true-up of 239 positions
- Attrition of 4.26% (decreased by 46% in 2025)
- Recruitment: Increase of 66% in applications received
- Career advancement included 28% female, 13% minority, 5% veteran

Community Impact(s)

- \$15,754,533 CILT to City of Eugene, City of Springfield
- EWEB incentives funded 14,575 MWh of energy savings (35% of funds to Limited Income)
- Funded \$1.85 million in limited income bill assistance (ECC, Energy Share)
- Funded 550 zero-interest loans at \$4.75 million
- 6,300 water leak notifications
- EWEB Ambassadors – 700+ hours

Mr. Lawson presented 18 goals along with detailed comments related to the progress of each goal.

He thanked the Board for their guidance, outlining the following significant directions/actions:

- Bonneville Power Administration 2028-2044 Provider of Choice Contract
- Sierra Pacific (Seneca Sustainable Energy, LLC) "Cost Neutral" Extension
- McKenzie Valley Service Territory Transfer to Lane Electric Cooperative
- Approved initial 30% design – Willamette Water Treatment Plant
- Oversight/approval of \$400.7 million electric, \$86.6 water budgets
- EWEB Business Management System (Revised 2026 organizational goals)
- Ongoing policy review/revisions
- General Manager recruitment and selection

General Manager Lawson and Assistant General Manager Hart responded to questions from the Board related to the operational and strategic goals report.

Future Board Agendas [02:09:00]

There were no suggestions for future board agendas.

Board Wrap Up [02:10:15]

Commissioner Barofsky thanked commissioners for the in-depth conversation regarding Measure 20-373.

President Brown praised EWEB Legislative Representative Jason Hueser.

Adjourn [02:12:56]

President Brown adjourned the regular meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Assistant Secretary

President

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