

**EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD**  
**REGULAR SESSION**  
**September 5, 2023**  
**5:30 P.M.**

**Commissioners Present:** Sonya Carlson, President; John Barofsky, Vice President; John Brown, Matt McRae, Mindy Schlossberg, Commissioners

**Others Present:** Frank Lawson, EWEB General Manager; Rodney Price, EWEB Assistant General Manager; Brian Booth, Chief Energy Resources Officer; Jonathan Hart, Power Planning Supervisor; Aaron Bush, Resource Analyst; Jason Heuser, Public Policy and Government Affairs Program Manager; Karen Kelley, Chief Operations Officer; Laura Farthing, Senior Water Engineer; Jennifer Connors, Communications and Marketing Supervisor; Lisa Krentz, Generation Manager; Patty Boyle, Generation Contracts Supervisor; Crystal Ball, Pacific Northwest Utility Conference Committee (PNUCC) Executive Director; Aliza Seelig, PNUCC Analytics and Policy Director

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**Agenda Check**

President Carlson asked for any adjustments to the agenda. There were none.

**Items from Board Members and General Manager [0:33]**

Commissioner Schlossberg said she and Mr. Lawson met with Nancy Newton and Steve Moe from the City of Springfield as part of her assignment. She said their goal was to build open communication.

Commissioner Brown said he received comments from private property owners impressed with EWEB Security staff and their interaction with campers at EWEB facilities. Commissioner Brown also thanked staff for their maintenance of EWEB buildings and land.

Commissioner McRae acknowledged the letter received from the Sierra Club and signatories which included many suggestions including encouraging EWEB to centralize programs to support IRA funds. He suggested a memo from staff addressing those issues and acknowledging feedback. President Carlson said she and Mr. Price would meet with representatives of the group later this month.

Commissioner McRae acknowledged a recent Oregon Public Broadcast (OPB) interview of EWEB staff.

Commissioner McRae acknowledged the reduction in peak power in response to EWEB's request to the public. Mr. Lawson said he was pleased with the response and future efforts

would be coupled with formal demand response programs. Mr. Price reported an estimated 29% reduction, and that reduction was also seen outside of peak hours.

President Carlson thanked Mr. Lawson for joining the August River Road Neighborhood Association meeting.

Mr. Lawson acknowledged outreach events at College Hill and thanked the Communications team and Assistant General Manager Price for their work on the request to the community to conserve. He shared he also received the open letter from the Sierra Club, Fossil Free Eugene and others, and management and the Board would evaluate specific details in the letter over time. Mr. Lawson shared September was National Preparedness Month and EWEB would share communications on preparedness and other emergency topics.

### **Correspondence [11:45]**

Mr. Lawson said an informational Climate Guidebook was launched and could be found on EWEB's website.

Mr. Lawson said they were ahead of schedule on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) policy and that board feedback was incorporated, which included refined definitions. Mr. Lawson said he would like to submit the policy to the Board in October for approval. He said Ms. Hutchens, EWEB's HR Manager was looking for feedback on the process for GM performance evaluation. He said some aspects of the General Manager's performance evaluation put pressure back on the General Manager and the Board to define organizational goals as well as metrics for the General Manager to be evaluated – which could be separate from the typical emphasis on organizational performance. He added that all suggestions within the memo are consistent with existing policy.

Commissioner McRae asked if the performance evaluation would be discussed by the Board prior to evaluation. Mr. Lawson said the process would be at the beginning of the year and it would be an opportune time for the Board and General Manager to put forth ideas for criteria in the evaluation that would be used during the evaluation process itself.

President Carlson appreciated updates to the DEI policy.

Commissioner Schlossberg asked that the General Manager's performance evaluation be included on the January agenda to give the Board guidance and help them be prepared. Mr. Lawson agreed and added that the establishment of performance criteria would provide opportunities for quarterly check-in which should occur on a regular basis rather than once a year.

### **Public Input [18:50]**

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.

### Written Testimony:

**Will Rutherford** of Vida, Oregon, shared information related to the Leaburg Decommissioning, including a link to a podcast interview of Nadine Scott by Rick Dancer.

### Verbal Testimony:

**Nadine Scott** shared comments related to the Leaburg Decommissioning, including the impact the decommissioning would have on local businesses, homes, and the environment.

**Commissioner McRae** thanked the community for their testimony.

**Commissioner Schlossberg** stated they were hearing similar comments and asked if there was a way to sort the most common Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for ease of use.

**Mr. Lawson** explained several reasons the dam was part of the decommissioning project which included: assets, which include the dam, are included in the FERC license related to the decision; FERC would likely oppose a dam whose primary purpose is to generate electricity when that electricity and primary purpose is removed; there will be government and non-government organizations involved in the evaluation process who will advocate for removing the dam for fish and wildlife purposes; and it is not in EWEB's best interest to own, operate and manage the risk of an asset that does not support its primary mission. He stated lobbying was premature and there would be a formal public process with opportunities for stakeholders to participate in future outcomes. Mr. Lawson said Lane County was the transportation authority and ultimately it will be their decision what transportation options are evaluated and decided upon.

**President Carlson** recalled asking, prior to the decision being made, if EWEB could keep the dam and get rid of the power generation, and the answer was no.

## **BOARD ACTION AND GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **Approval of Consent Calendar – A, Minutes and Routine Contracts [35:25]**

#### **MINUTES**

1. a. August 1, 2023 Regular Session
- b. August 15, 2023 Work Session

#### **CONTRACTS**

2. CAC Specialty – for Commercial Insurance Broker Services \$350,000 based on a formal Request for Proposals.

President Carlson noted a wide range of bids and asked for insight on selection. Sarah Gorseigner advised of the two lowest, one was not focused on utility commercial brokerage. She advised the other had a utility focus but was structured with a base price for purchase and marketing and additional services would be an extra cost.

3. Power Settlements and Consulting Services, LLC – for an EIM Shadow Settlement Solution \$1.3 million (over 5 years) based on a Request for Proposals.

Commissioner McRae asked to clarify what service would be provided. Deborah Hart and Aaron Balmer said this was a computer application service to balance meter data report and records to ensure accurate payments are being made to the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

**MOTION:** Commissioner Brown moved to adopt Consent Calendar A.

The motion passed unanimously, 5:0.

### **Approval of Consent Calendar – B, Nonroutine Contracts and Other Consent Items**

4. DOWL – for the Willamette Knickerbocker Bridge Water Line Crossing Feasibility Study \$631,000 based on a formal Request for Proposals.
5. McLean & Company – for Human Resource Research and Advisory Membership Services \$212,000 (over 5 years) based on Direct Negotiation.
6. Northwest Power Pool – for Administrative Costs Related to Phase 3B of the Western Resource Adequacy Program \$650,000 (over 6 years) based on Direct Negotiation.
7. Schnabel Engineering, LLC – for a contract and increase for Engineering Support Services related to Tree Removal at Carmen-Smith \$81,000 (Resulting Cumulative Total \$179,000) based on Direct Negotiation.
8. Utilicast – for a New Power Market Gap Analysis \$180,000 based on a formal Request for Proposals.

President Carlson pulled item 5, McLean & Company.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Schlossberg moved to adopt Consent Calendar B with the exception of number 5.

The motion passed unanimously, 5:0.

### **Items removed from Consent Calendar**

Item 5, McClean & Company. President Carlson asked for more information and if this was a service used in the past. Kira Hutchens, Human Resources, said the service had been used the previous three years for Workforce Services, including engagement, new hire, and exit surveys. Ms. Hutchens said they hoped to add a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) advisory service into the contract. Ms. Hutchens clarified the contract was broken down to \$40,000 per year.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Schlossberg moved to approve Item 5.

The motion passed unanimously, 5:0.

**Summary of Findings: Pacific Northwest Utility Conference Committee (PNUCC) 2023 Northwest Regional Forecast [46:49]**

Crystal Ball, PNUCC Executive Director, and Aliza Seelig, PNUCC Analytics and Policy Director provided a PowerPoint presentation describing PNUCC's mission and key priorities and the Northwest Regional Forecast including key changes between 2022 and 2023; growing deficits; reduction of greenhouse gas from electricity production; changes in transportation; and federal legislation incentives for renewable energy. They answered questions from the Board.

**Resolution No. 2316, Adopting New EWEB Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act (PURPA) Manual and Process [01:42:10]**

Brian Booth, Chief Energy Resources Officer; Jonathan Hart, Power Planning Supervisor; and Aaron Bush, Resource Analyst provided a PowerPoint presentation describing PURPA hearings process requirements, the existing EWEB PURPA process, and a newly proposed EWEB PURPA hearings process. The discussion also included PURPA background; how PURPA standards apply to EWEB, and the timeline to consider new PURPA Electric Vehicle (EV) and Demand Response (DR) standards. They answered questions and received feedback from the Board.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Schlossberg moved to approved Resolution 2316 repealing the 1979 Procedures Manual for Hearings Under the National Energy Act and adopting the PURPA Hearings Process.

The motion passed unanimously, 5:0.

**New PURPA Standards for Electric Vehicles (EV) and Demand Response (DR) [01:53:50]**

Brian Booth, Chief Energy Resources Officer; Jonathan Hart, Power Planning Supervisor; and Aaron Bush, Resource Analyst provided a PowerPoint presentation describing new EV and DR PURPA standards and the timeline for consideration and determination by EWEB. The discussion included a description of how PURPA standards apply to EWEB; what it means to determine whether the standard is appropriate for EWEB; including if the standard aligns with PURPA's purposes. The demand response standard and electric vehicle charging standards were discussed in the context of EWEB's current status. Mr. Bush explained that EWEB's determination would be reflective of the Utility's circumstances and strategic direction at the time of the decision. They answered questions and received feedback from the Board.

**2023 Legislative and Regional Policy Update & Upcoming Year Legislative Session Preview** (Jason Heuser, Public Policy and Government Affairs Program Manager)  
**[02:05:40]**

Jason Heuser, Public Policy and Government Affairs Program Manager provided a PowerPoint presentation on legislative and policy updates, including post-session rule making and state energy plan; home energy programs and one-stop shop portal; building performance standard (BPS); natural and working lands incentive fund; and Paid Leave Oregon. Mr. Heuser provided information on possible 2024 legislation session issues including data center and crypto mining related to large electric load growth; organized markets; and regional transmission organization (RTO) information. They answered questions and received feedback from the Board.

**College Hill Construction and Public Outreach Plans [02:23:12]**

Karen Kelley, Chief Operations Officer; Laura Farthing, Senior Water Engineer; Jennifer Connors, Communications and Marketing Supervisor provided a PowerPoint presentation describing the College Hill Reservoir Replacement Project including project background and need; project status; and public participation plan. They answered questions and received feedback from the Board.

Vice President Barofsky departed the meeting at approximately 8:25 p.m.

**Break [02:54:20]**

President Carlson called for a 10-minute break.

**Carmen-Smith License Deployment Program Update [03:04:10]**

Lisa Krentz, Generation Manager and Patty Boyle, Generation Contracts Manager provided a PowerPoint presentation describing updates on the Carmen-Smith License Deployment including project layout; projects completed to date; challenges; and the Lookout Fire. They answered questions and received feedback from the Board.

**Future Board Agendas [03:45:48]**

Mr. Lawson said PURPA work would be on the October agenda. He said October was the start of financial season and Deborah Hart and her staff would start work on the budget and rates. Mr. Lawson advised the mid-October work session was dependent on DEI policy feedback.

Mr. Lawson advised Mr. Price would act in his capacity while unavailable during the second the half of September.

**Board Wrap Up [03:47:00]**

President Carlson asked to adjust the room set up for board meetings held in the Roosevelt Operations Center. Commissioner Brown said he could not hear commissioners interact with staff at the front of the room. President Carlson

acknowledged online complaints that the session was difficult to hear and asked if commissioners could have microphones. Mr. Price said he would follow up.

President Carlson noted language regarding staff follow up to public input was omitted. Mr. Lawson said he would review the form.

President Carlson announced EWEB's Run to Stay Warm registration was open online.

### **Adjourn**

President Carlson adjourned the meeting at 9:23 pm.

*Recorded by Jackie Low, LCOG*

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Assistant Secretary

President