



Leaburg Canal Update - May 17, 2022

Community members' questions at the 2022 Upriver Board Meeting

EWEB Commissioners and staff held a public meeting at the McKenzie Fire & Rescue Training Center in Leaburg on April 19. EWEB staff presented about several subjects, including watershed recovery efforts and EWEB's developing wildfire mitigation plan.

EWEB Generation Manager Lisa Krentz and Generation Engineering Supervisor Mark Zinniker presented an update about the Leaburg Canal, including the near-term risk mitigation work EWEB is implementing, as well as the four long-term alternatives EWEB and its consultants are evaluating for the future of the Leaburg Project.

After the brief presentations, Board President John Brown moderated a question and answer session that lasted over an hour and fifteen minutes. Questions were primarily about the future of the Leaburg Project.

We have summarized the Q & A session below. Although there were many questions and concerns, and each person brought their own perspectives to the meeting, the questions generally fell into the categories of:

1. Clarifying the four alternatives EWEB and our consultants are studying further,
2. EWEB's two recent property acquisitions,
3. Concerns about accessing water from the Leaburg Canal, and
4. If the project were to be decommissioned, what would happen to Leaburg Lake.

Questions and concerns shared at the April 19 public meeting have been documented for consideration as part of EWEB's Triple Bottom Line (TBL) Analysis. The analysis, which considers financial, environmental and social impacts, will help the Board compare and evaluate solutions to this complex problem. Other opportunities for public input include participating in an upcoming community survey and contacting EWEB Commissioners directly.

You can watch the entire Upriver Board Meeting [here](#).

Follow our website and sign up for the Leaburg Canal project updates newsletter here:

<https://www.eweb.org/about-us/power-supply/mckenzie-river-hydro-projects/future-of-the-leaburg-canal>

Next steps:

- EWEB will host listening sessions at EWEB's Lloyd Knox Park at Leaburg Lake throughout the spring and summer. EWEB staff will be available for you to learn more about the project and express your thoughts and concerns on the following dates:
 - Second Tuesdays of the month:
 - June 14, from 4-8 p.m.
 - July 12, from 4-8 p.m.
 - August 9, from 4-8 p.m.
 - And the last Saturdays of the month:
 - May 28, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
 - June 25, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
 - July 30, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- EWEB will send out a survey in June for EWEB customers and community members to provide their input on how these proposed solutions may impact them.

1. Clarifying the issues with the Leaburg Canal and the four alternative canal configurations that EWEB and our consultants are studying to resolve these issues

Q. What is the problem with the Leaburg Canal? Is it based on leakage?

The canal was taken out of service in October 2018 due to the indications of internal erosion that includes excessive seepage. Seepage is normal, but it can progress to the point where it's doing damage to the embankment.

In the process of exploring repair alternatives to fix that problem, we made an unpleasant discovery that the portion of the canal with excessive seepage also contained low-strength soils that presented a seismic vulnerability.

So it was a combination of factors: we began investigating the excessive seepage and then realized that it went beyond that to other hazard considerations that we would need to remedy before we can bring the canal back online.

Q. What is the distance or length of the canal that needs to be fixed?

The specific area where the initial problem was identified is about a thousand feet in length that we would need to remediate.

Because of the canal's age, however, we don't have sufficient records about the construction history. Our regulator, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, expects EWEB to explore other portions of the canal that have similar characteristics to inspect for vulnerabilities there as well. We know for sure that we have this 1,000-foot reach, but we're suspicious that it's not the only area that would need to be remediated.

Q. If the weight of all that water volume in the canal is the problem, why not just operate the canal at a lower level?

That was one of the approaches that we proposed to our regulator (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) because it is lower risk to operate the canal with lower levels of water flowing through it. However, FERC indicated that the same type of engineering improvements would be required because the tributary creeks that the Leaburg Canal intercepts can potentially fill up the canal to full capacity in certain rare storm scenarios posing similar risk as when the canal is in full operation. So, we would still have to reconstruct the canal the same way regardless if EWEB planned to operate at a lower water level.

Q. What are the four alternative project configurations EWEB and its engineering consultants are studying to resolve the issues with the Leaburg Project?

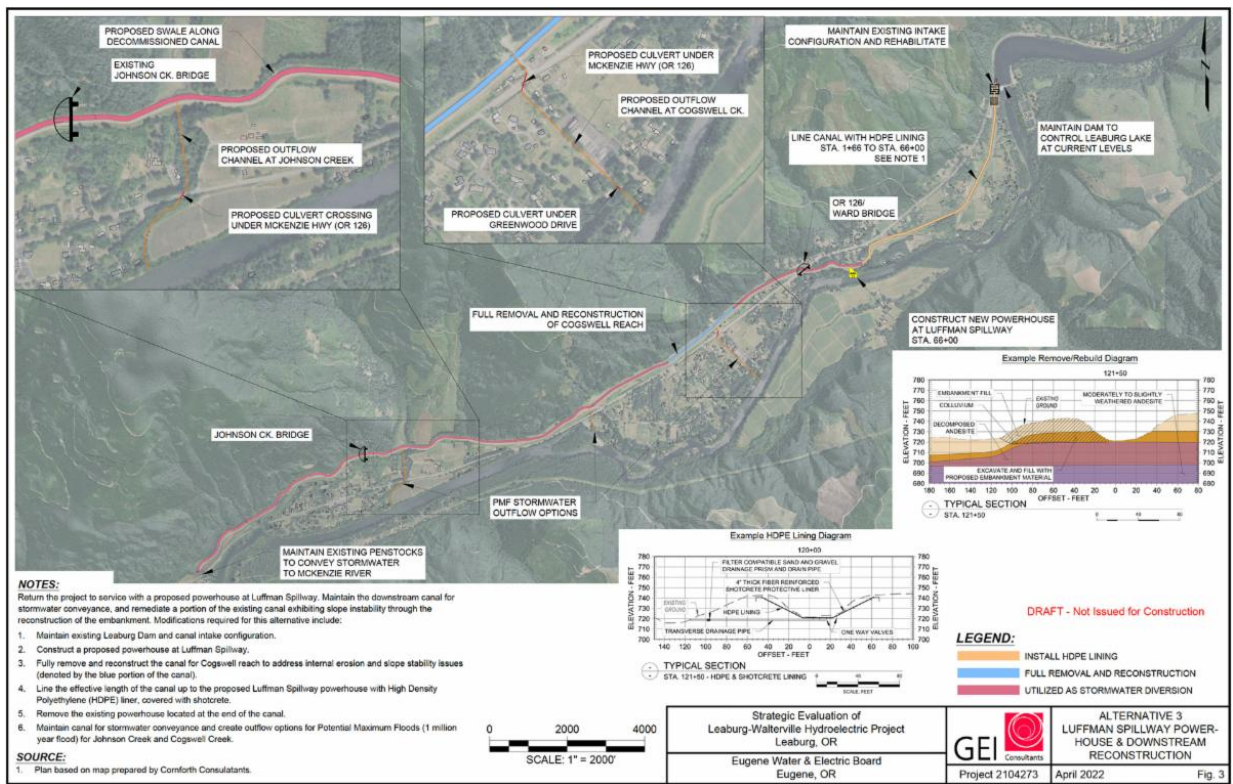
Guided by complex evaluations of multiple potential solutions to address these structural issues with the canal, the Leaburg Canal Strategic Evaluation Team has identified four alternatives to study in further detail.

Each alternative places the safety of EWEB employees and the community as its highest priority.

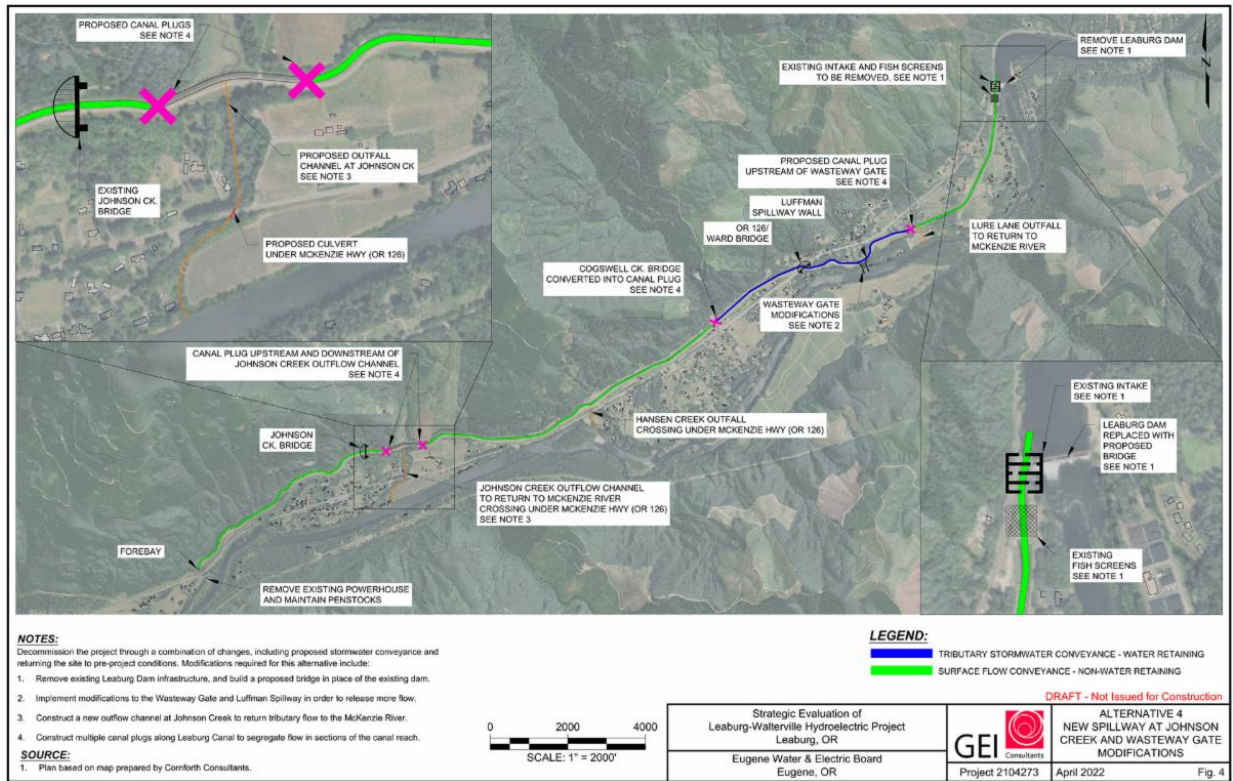
The alternatives will help EWEB Commissioners decide the ultimate fate of the Leaburg Project, whether it is "returned-to-service" or decommissioned and used solely for "stormwater conveyance."

Of the four alternatives, two are on opposite ends of the "stormwater conveyance" vs. "return-to-service" spectrum.

Alternative 1 represents the full removal of all facilities to pre-project conditions – as if the Leaburg Project were never built.



Alternative 4 would decommission the canal, combining “stormwater conveyance” alterations to sections of the canal with the restoration of other parts of the Leaburg Project to pre-project conditions, including a new spillway at Johnson Creek and modification to the Luffman spillway. This alternative is a flexible option that converts short-term risk reduction measures that are under consideration into a long-term solution.



The Project Team will continue to work with our consultants and EWEB employees from multiple departments to study the financial, social and environmental impacts to the utility, our customers, and the upriver community.

Meanwhile, the Project Team will carry on with the prioritization of near-term risk reduction alternatives. Risk reduction measures will include reversible canal configuration changes, such as isolating portions of the canal from the high flow creeks, and canal-wide efforts, such as proactive removal of unhealthy trees that could fall into the canal during a storm and obstruct water flow.

Q. Would the Luffman Spillway option generate as much electricity as the existing powerhouse?

A new powerhouse at the Luffman Spillway would generate less power.

The Leaburg Project works by the canal carrying the water at about the same elevation for 5 miles down the valley, while the river descends in elevation. When the water falls through the Canal Forebay to the Powerhouse at the end of the canal, it has a drop of over 80 feet and generates up to 15 Megawatts (MW). That drop is called the “head,” and the greater the head, the more power hydroelectricity facilities generate. The head at Luffman Spillway would only be about a 35 foot drop and generate about 6.2MW, so the same amount of water would produce less power.

Q. If the Board were to recommend a full return-to-service, would the Leaburg Dam need to be rebuilt?

We would not need to rebuild the dam. We would need to continue investing in the dam to maintain its reliability, but not reconstruct it. In a couple of locations along the dam we need to do some seismic reinforcement, but for the most part, the dam is in good shape.

Q. When evaluating the environmental impact of the Board’s decision, how are you including the potential to create clean energy?

That will be an element of our Triple Bottom Line assessment. Since hydropower is a low-carbon source of power, EWEB will evaluate the benefit of keeping the project in operation with our goal of providing our customers with a 95% carbon-free electricity portfolio. There are, of course, environmental impacts associated with hydropower, which will also be evaluated as part of our Triple Bottom Line assessment.

Q. Has EWEB looked into federal infrastructure money as a way to pay for the project?

We are looking into options including federal, state and county funding. EWEB has recently hired a grant writer to help identify and apply for funding for infrastructure projects.

2. Questions about why EWEB bought 3 properties along the canal

Q. Why did EWEB buy properties along the canal, and why is one house being moved?

A few years ago, EWEB purchased a canal-adjacent property with a manufactured home. We are in the process of donating that home to a Holiday Farm Fire survivor and are moving it to their property.

In April of 2022, EWEB entered into purchase agreements on two properties along the canal that became available on the real estate market. Knowing that we're going to need to do some work on the canal, we were monitoring to see if any properties were coincidentally listed for sale. That's what happened with the two recent properties. EWEB had no indication that these houses would become available, nor did we express any interest in those particular properties prior to them being listed.

Q. The properties that went for sale in March/April of 2022 were being marketed by a broker from Beaverton. Why aren't local brokers representing homeowners along the canal?

EWEB has a local broker. You would have to ask the people who decided to sell their houses why they chose that particular broker. EWEB cannot speak to their motivations to sell their houses at this time, nor to how they chose their broker.

Q. Is EWEB planning to purchase additional properties?

EWEB is not trying to proactively purchase properties at this time. EWEB may evaluate opportunities that arise, but our strong preference is to wait for the Board to make a decision at the end of this year, and then we'll have a clearer understanding of what we're going to actually do on the canal. And then we'll be able to better assess what, if any, needs we have.

Q. Do you have any plans for upkeep and vegetation management for the properties EWEB recently purchased along the canal?

We will be developing property management plans for the parcels that we're purchasing. It is not our intent to let either the structures or the land itself to go into disrepair.

3. Concerns about accessing water from the Leaburg Canal

Q. How will the hatcheries be affected?

Both the McKenzie Hatchery and the Leaburg Hatchery have relied on the Leaburg Project to provide a point of access for their source water for their operations. EWEB has been in very close communication with both facilities, as they were immediately impacted by the need to take the canal offline and out of service. In fact,

EWEB was working with both hatcheries to identify alternative sources of water since the 1990s, with a focus on developing contingency water sources in case anything happened to the Leaburg Project's ability to provide water.

Both hatcheries have been exploring water supply alternatives over the years and they have their own processes underway in terms of trying to understand what their alternatives are for water supply going forward.

EWEB will continue working with both hatcheries to support them in their processes of finding alternative water supplies, and we will communicate how our Commissioners' decision on the future alternatives of the Leaburg Project will impact the hatcheries as part of the environmental and social aspects of our Triple Bottom Line assessment.

Q. I used to get water from the canal – who can I talk to?

EWEB was able to accommodate people drawing water from the canal when it was in operation, but we're no longer able to accommodate with the canal in its current situation. We are developing more information, but in the meantime, please reach out to EWEB to discuss your individual case.

4. If the Leaburg Project were to be decommissioned, what would happen to Leaburg Lake?

Q. For those of us that are downriver of the dam, what are the implications for flow of the river?

Although some dams on the McKenzie do provide flood control (i.e. those operated by the Army Corps of Engineers: Cougar and Blue River reservoirs) the Leaburg Project is a run-of-the-river facility, meaning that whatever water flows into Leaburg Lake is immediately released downstream. The water is released through the dam to the river itself or diverted to the canal for hydropower generation. Leaburg Lake doesn't have storage capacity, so removing the dam would not have a measurable effect on the downstream watershed or facilities.

Q. If the Leaburg Project were to be decommissioned, would EWEB have to remove the dam?

The dam was built to divert water to the canal for power generation. If there's no need to divert the water, the dam still does serve other purposes. It forms the Leaburg Lake, which provides recreation opportunities. It is a bridge to connect the Leaburg Hatchery and many homes and farms to Highway 126. And it serves as a fish barrier that allows fisheries managers to remove hatchery fish from the river to prevent them from spawning and mixing genetics with the wild stocks. But it is an old dam and costs quite a bit of money each year just to maintain it. So the cost-benefit analysis – and the right to dam the river without maintaining our water rights for generation – will be accounted for in our analysis of decommissioning scenarios.

Q. The canal trail is a considerable recreation resource. Will EWEB consider recreational uses in the decision?

Yes. Recreational uses of the canal will be part of our Triple Bottom Line Analysis.

Q. Could the dam be transferred to another department, like Oregon State Parks, so we could keep the Lake?

That is certainly an option that we can explore as part of our analysis.

Sincerely,

Adam Spencer

EWEB Communication Specialist

541-685-7539



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Leaburg Canal Update - June 15, 2022

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM AVAILABLE: Leaburg Hydroelectric Project Strategic Evaluation

This is your opportunity to let Commissioners know what you want for the future of your community.

In deciding the future of the Leaburg Project, EWEB Commissioners will make a decision that could result in the removal of the Leaburg Dam, the draining of Leaburg Lake, and the demolition of the Leaburg Canal.

Commissioners are deciding between restoring power generation or decommissioning a nearly 100-year-old facility.

Commissioners are considering how to invest tens of millions of dollars in our community.

Please take 10-15 minutes to read about the many ramifications of these decisions, then provide your feedback. Commissioners are evaluating the financial costs of their decision, the environmental impacts of each repair alternative, and the social impacts: how each decision would affect Leaburgers and EWEB customers.

This is your best chance to be heard:

<http://eweb.org/LeaburgPublicComment>

For a more in-depth refresher, you can start at the [Leaburg Project Website](#):

<http://eweb.org/leaburgcanal>

Sign up for this newsletter (if someone forwarded it to you): **<http://eweb.org/leaburgnewsletter>**

You can watch April's Upriver Board Meeting [here](#).



Join Leaburg Project Manager Jeremy Somogye and Communications Specialist Adam Spencer at Lloyd Knox Park to learn more about the project and provide your input!

Jeremy and Adam have spent two afternoons at Leaburg Lake, talking to canal neighbors, irrigators, and folks fishing. We've had a lot of great conversations about the Leaburg decision, our community's energy resiliency, and some of the likely scenarios for Leaburg Lake, Dam, and Canal in the next 10 years and beyond.

Please stop by to learn about the project, get answers to your questions, and let us know what you think about the future of our community. Your comments to us in person will also be incorporated into the Triple Bottom Line Assessment on the project, and we sure like getting to talk to folks!

Next steps:

- EWEB will host listening sessions at EWEB's Lloyd Knox Park at Leaburg Lake throughout the spring and summer. EWEB staff will be available for you to learn more about the project and express your thoughts and concerns on the following dates:
 - The last Saturdays of the month:
 - June 25, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
 - July 30, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
 - Second Tuesdays of the month:
 - July 12, from 4-8 p.m.
 - August 9, from 4-8 p.m.
- EWEB will mail the [public comment form](#) (same as above) to canal neighbors
- We will publish a video that explains the problems with the canal and the four proposed alternatives for the future configuration of the project.

Commissioner's "Work Session" Board Meeting includes updates about Leaburg Project

On Thursday, June 15, at 5:30 p.m., the **Leaburg Project team will be presenting the latest information** (click to download their memo) to EWEB's elected Commissioners.

The "Work Session" is for informing Commissioners, therefore there will not be public testimony at this meeting.

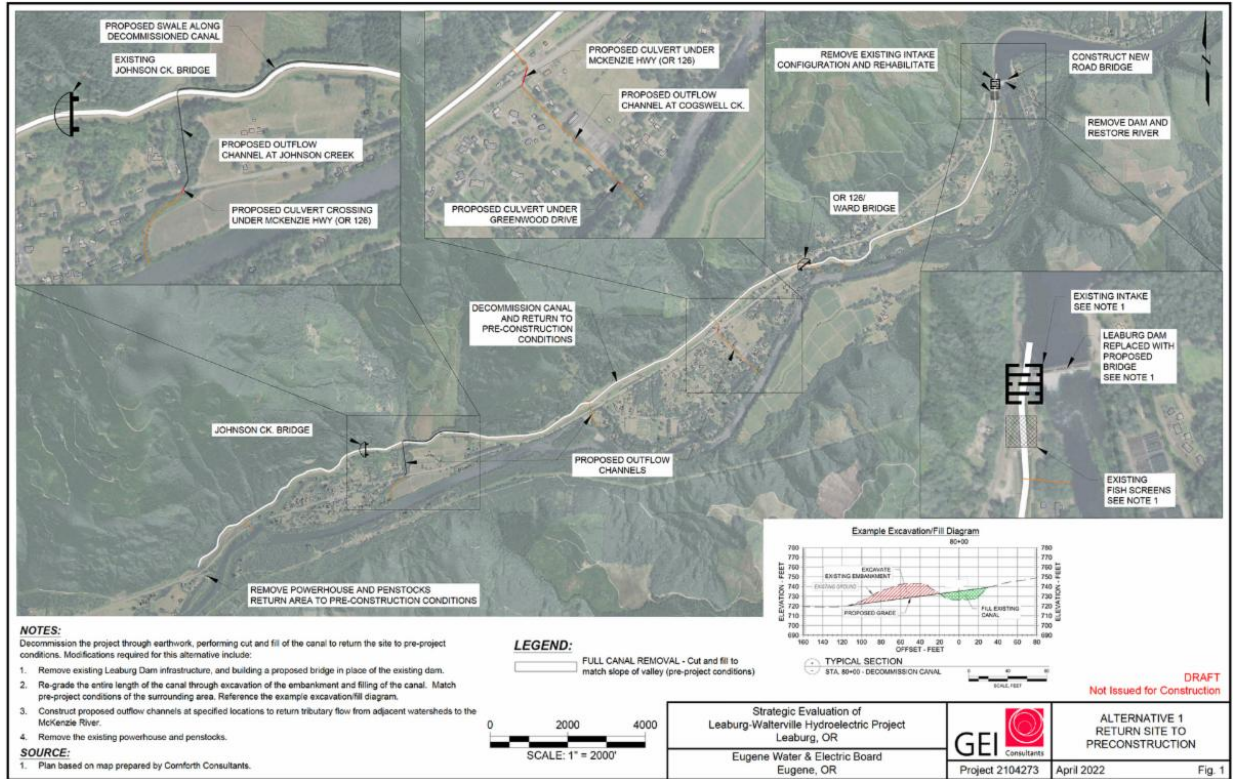
The team preparing the utility's Wildfire Mitigation Plan is also presenting.

Please stream the Work Session live here: <https://tinyurl.com/EWEB-Work-Session-06-16-22>

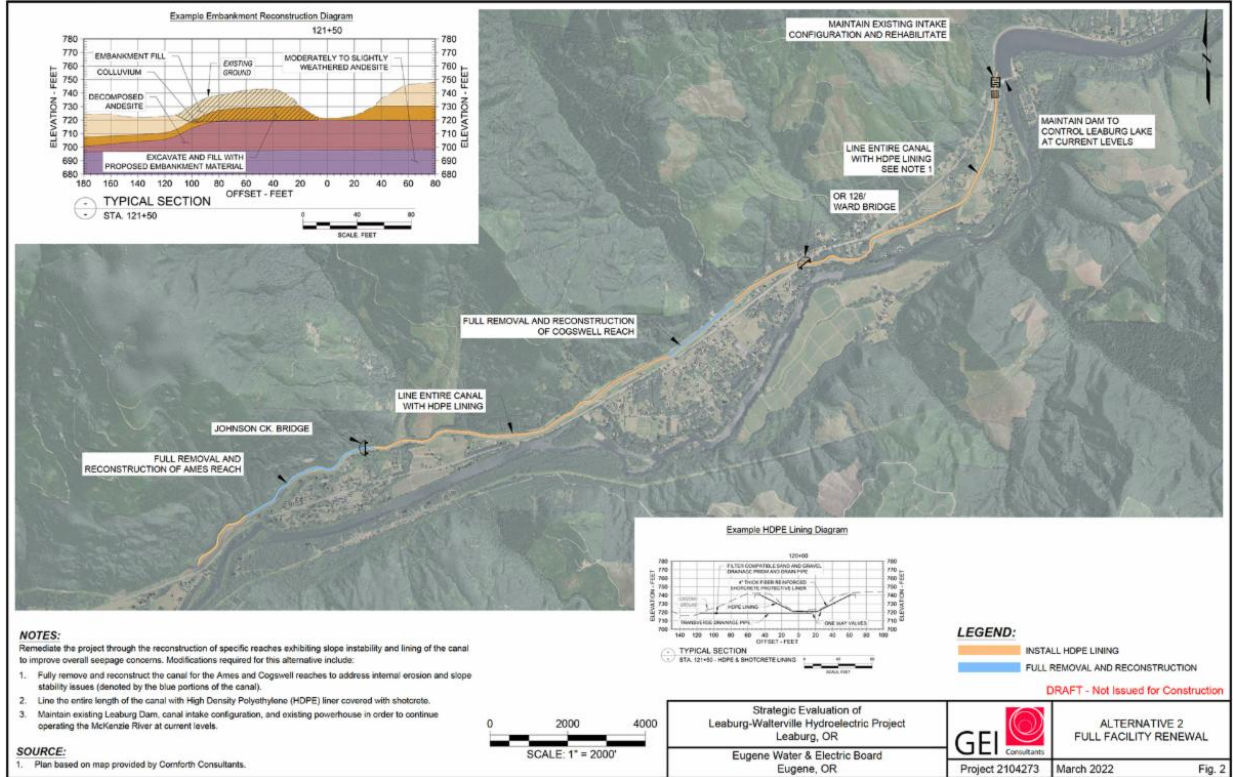
If you can't watch it tomorrow, it will be uploaded to [EWEB's YouTube page](#).

Four proposed alternatives for the future configuration of the project (nothing new for now - just a refresher)

Alternative 1 represents the full removal of all facilities to pre-project conditions – as if the Leaburg Project were never built.

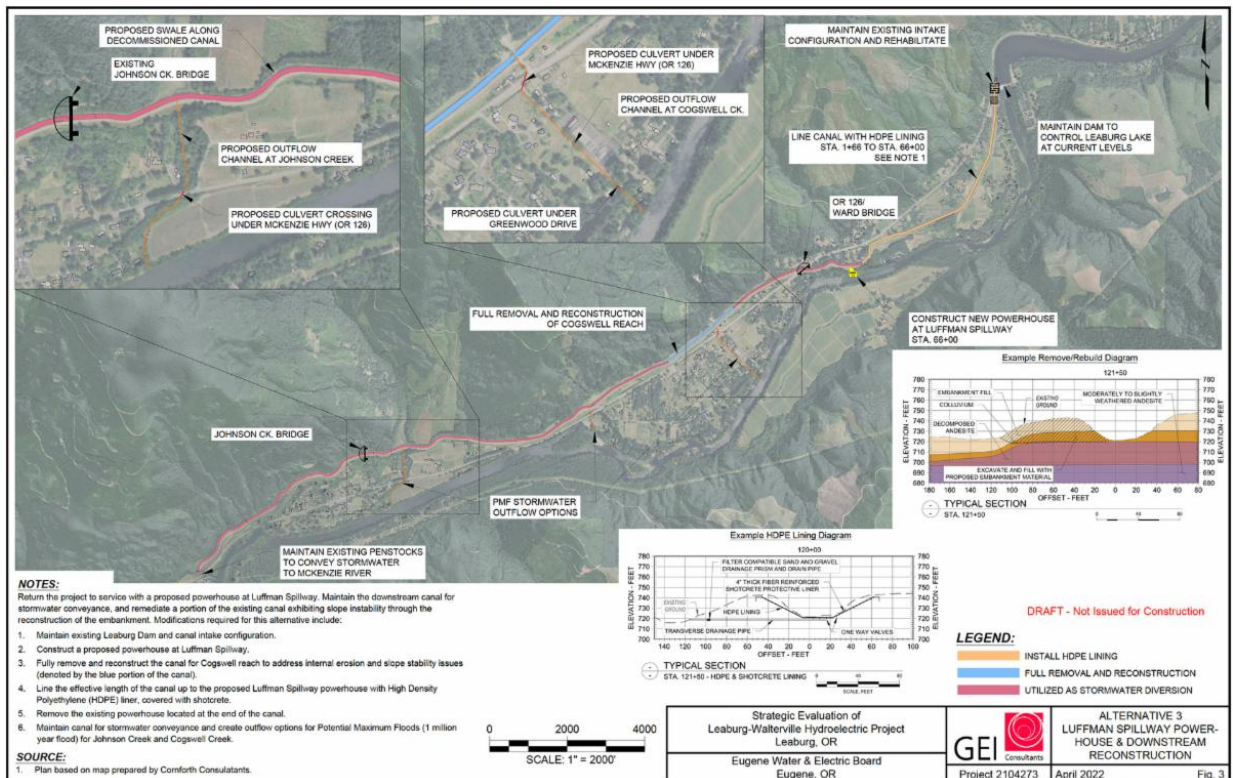


Alternative 2 would entail a full renovation of all facilities back to peak performance configuration. This plan would address the structural issues by removing and rebuilding certain parts the canal with those issues, and addresses the seepage issue by lining the entire canal with a High Density Polyethylene (heavy plastic) barrier.

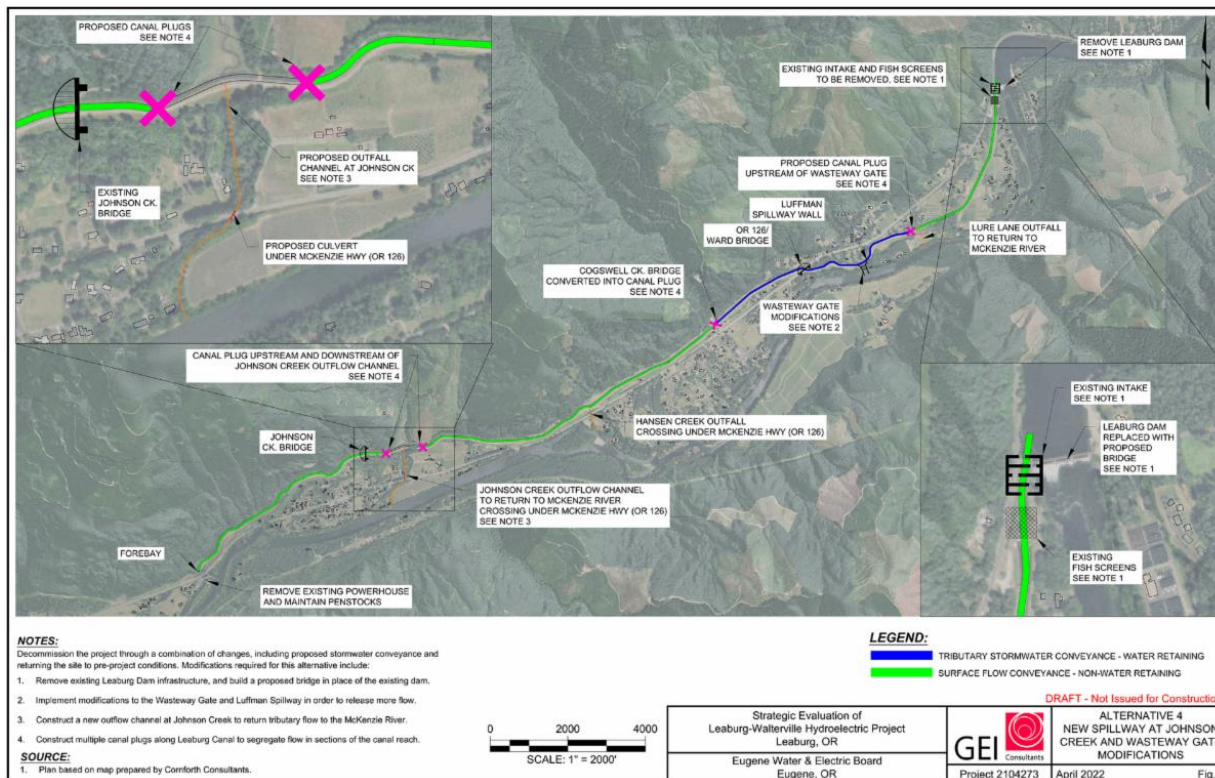


These bookended scenarios (Alternative 1: Full removal or Alternative 2: Full restoration) would be the most expensive due to the extensive construction and repairs required throughout the entire project and facilities.

Alternative 3 includes a mix of a “return-to-service” and “stormwater conveyance” strategies. This alternative proposes adding a new power generation facility higher up the canal at the Luffman Spillway (about 1 mile from the dam), with repairs and alterations to the canal downstream of the new powerhouse to transition it to a stormwater conveyance facility. This alternative compares the costs of repairs and alterations to the potential power and revenue generation that EWEB would be able to recoup. It also preserves EWEB water rights for power generation.



Alternative 4 would decommission the canal, combining “stormwater conveyance” alterations to sections of the canal with the restoration of other parts of the Leaburg Project to pre-project conditions, including a new spillway at Johnson Creek and modification to the Luffman spillway. This alternative is a flexible option that converts short-term risk reduction measures that are under consideration into a long-term solution.



The Project Team will continue to work with our consultants and EWEB employees from multiple departments to study the financial, social and environmental impacts to the utility, our customers, and the upriver community.

Meanwhile, the Project Team will carry on with the prioritization of near-term risk reduction alternatives. Risk reduction measures will include reversible canal configuration changes, such as isolating portions of the canal from the high flow creeks, and canal-wide efforts, such as proactive removal of unhealthy trees that could fall into the canal during a storm and obstruct water flow.

Thank you for your involvement in our community. Please call or email me if you have any questions, and I hope to see you up at the lake soon.

Sincerely,
Adam Spencer
 EWEB Communication Specialist
 541-685-7539



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Leaburg Canal Update - July 11, 2022

Join EWEB Commissioner Mindy Schlossberg at July 12 Leaburg Listening Session, Lloyd Knox Park, 4pm-8pm

Please join EWEB Commissioner Mindy Schlossberg to discuss the future of the Leaburg Project. She is the "at-large" Commissioner who represents the upriver community.

Please stop by to learn about the project, get answers to your questions, and let us know what you think about the future direction of our community. Your comments to us in person will also be incorporated into the Triple Bottom Line Assessment on the project.

Next steps:

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 - Second Tuesdays of the month:
 - July 12, from 4-8 p.m.
 - August 9, from 4-8 p.m.
 - The last Saturdays of the month:
 - July 30, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- EWEB mailed the **public comment form** (same as above) to canal neighbors on July 1
- We will publish a video that explains the problems with the canal and the four proposed alternatives for the future configuration of the project.

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM AVAILABLE: Leaburg Hydroelectric Project Strategic Evaluation

In deciding the future of the Leaburg Project, EWEB Commissioners will make a decision that **could** result in the removal of the Leaburg Dam, the draining of Leaburg Lake, and the demolition of the Leaburg Canal.

Commissioners are deciding between restoring power generation or decommissioning a nearly 100-year-old facility.

Commissioners are considering how to invest tens of millions of dollars in our community.

Please take 10-15 minutes to read about the many ramifications of these decisions, then provide your feedback for how these decisions may impact you. Commissioners are evaluating the financial costs of their decision, the environmental impacts of each repair alternative, and the social impacts: how each decision would affect Leaburgers and EWEB customers.

<http://eweb.org/LeaburgPublicComment>

For a more in-depth refresher, you can start at the [Leaburg Project Website](#):

Commissioner's "Work Session" Board Meeting included updates about Leaburg Project

On Thursday, June 15, at 5:30 p.m., the **Leaburg Project team presented the latest information** (click to download their memo) to EWEB's elected Commissioners.

The "**Work Session**" (Video Recording) included updated, PRELIMINARY cost estimates, and details on the Triple Bottom Line Assessment process.

Lane County Firewise Grant Program

Lane County has funds available to help rural residents work on their homes to make them more resilient to wildfires. Please look at this list of incentives to see if there are any you are interested in for your home: <https://www.lanecounty.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=3585881&pageId=5924238>

Of particular interest may be the "Defensible Space Irrigation System" and "Water Catchment Tank" grants. These can help Leaburg residents whose water availability has been affected by the dewatering of the canal.

From Lane County: "To receive any grant incentive funding, a defensible space around the home is required. The Defensible Space is measured as the first 30-feet, and up to 100-feet, away from the primary dwelling and attached structures (decks, stairs, etc.). Staff will discuss this requirement with the property owner during the intake home assessment. In general, no vegetation can be planted within the first 5-feet around the perimeter of the dwelling and attached structures, and trees must be at least 8-10 feet away."

Other EWEB News of note:

[-Commissioners Approve Utility's First Wildfire Mitigation Plan Strengthening Wildfire Resiliency](#)

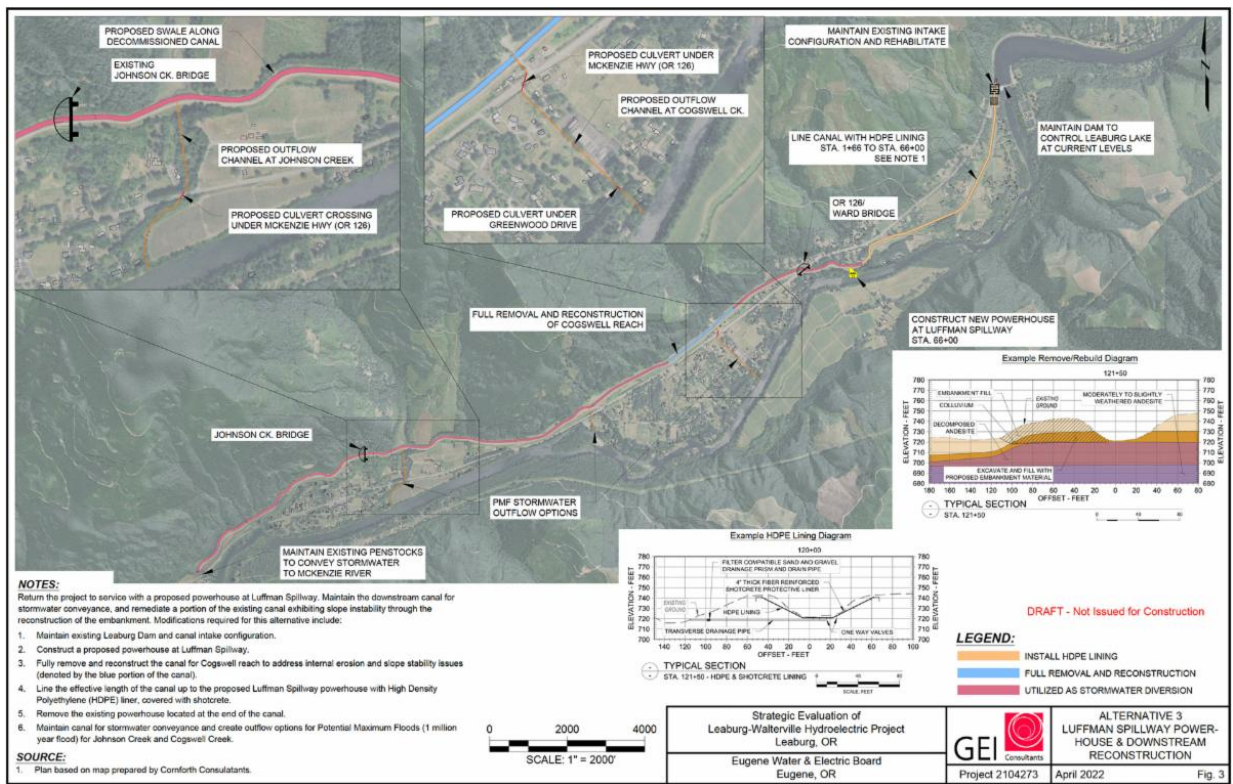
[-New camera atop EWEB tower will bolster wildfire early detection capabilities](#)

[-Fake Geese, Drones, and Glow-in-the-Dark Markers: How EWEB Protects Birds from Powerlines](#)

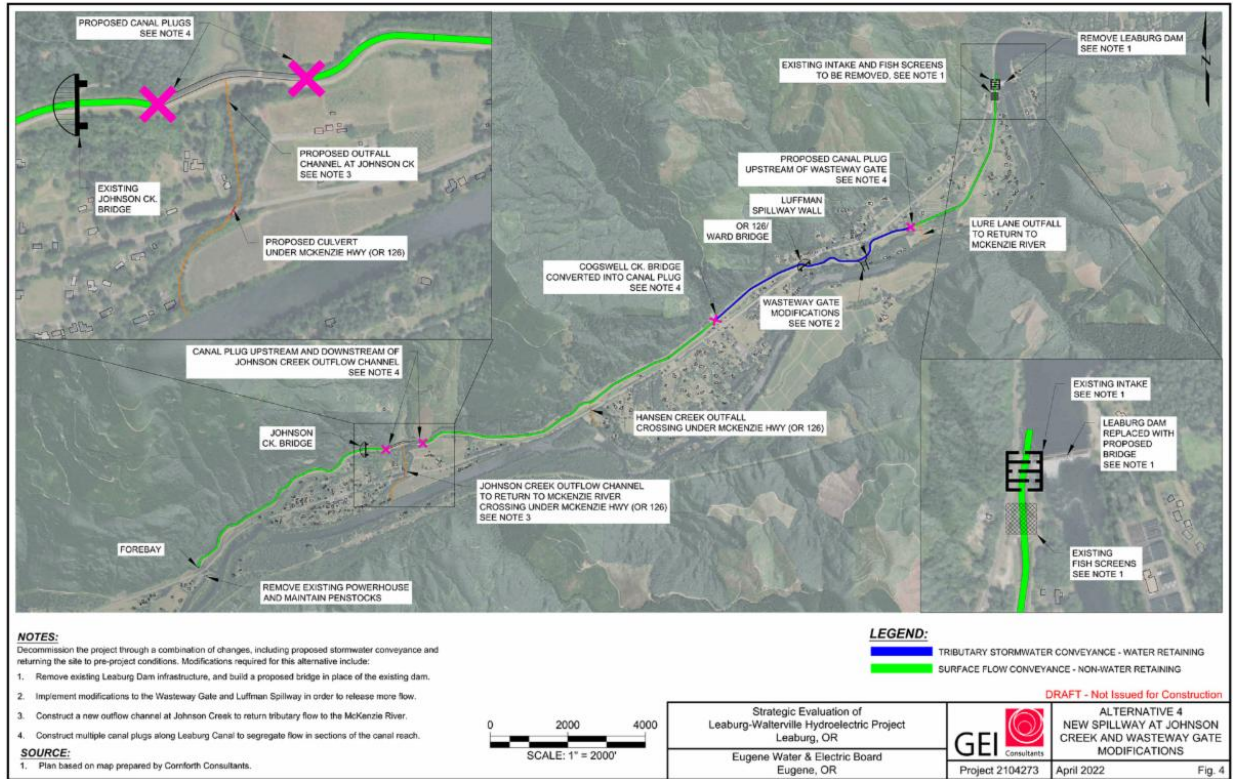
Four proposed alternatives for the future configuration of the project

(nothing new for now - just a refresher)

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Leaburg Canal Update - July 26, 2022



Join Commissioner Schlossberg at Lloyd Knox Park on Saturday, July 30 to learn more about the Leaburg project evaluation and provide your input!

Please stop by to learn about the project, get answers to your questions, and let us know what you think about the future of our community. Commissioners Mindy Schlossberg and John Barofsky both attended the July 12 Listening Session.

"I found it to be a great experience. There seemed to be a good turnout and lots of folks were eager to share their thoughts and ask questions," said Commissioner Schlossberg.

Commissioner Schlossberg and General Manager Frank Lawson will be attending this Saturday's session. Your comments to them and to EWEB staff will be incorporated into the Triple Bottom Line Assessment on the project.

Final Leaburg Lake Listening Sessions:

- Saturday, July 30, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. - **Ike's Pizza will be provided at 12 p.m!**
- Tuesday, August 9, from 4 - 8 p.m.

You can also provide your input here: <http://eweb.org/LeaburgPublicComment>

August 2 Board Meeting includes cost estimates for Project

On Tuesday, August 2, at 5:30 p.m., the Leaburg Project team will be presenting the latest information to EWEB's elected Commissioners, including finalized estimates of the upfront Capital Costs for each proposed alternative.

A link to livestream the meeting will be posted here: <https://www.eweb.org/about-us/board-of-commissioners/2022-board-agendas-and-minutes>

If you can't watch it next week, it will be uploaded to [EWEB's YouTube page](#).

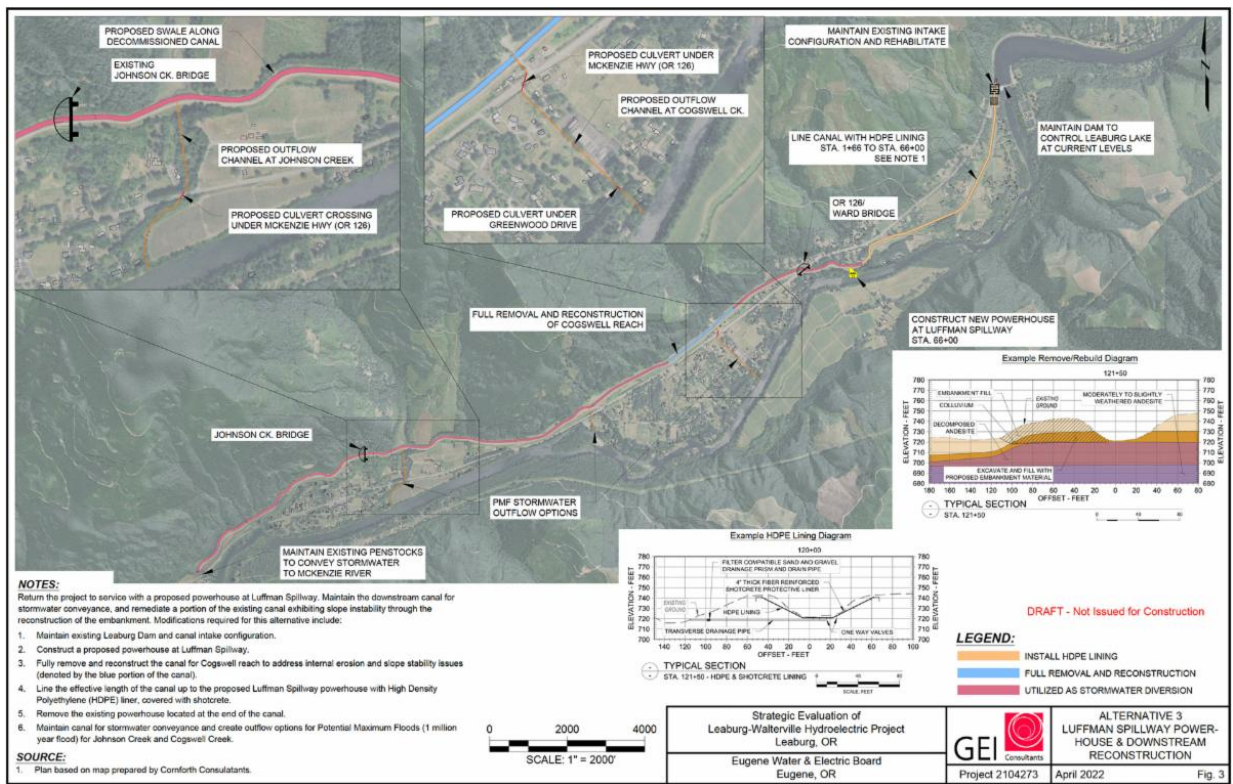
NOTICE - August 2: Temporary Closures to Leaburg Dam Road

- **Tuesday, August 2, from approx. 9:00 a.m. to 10 a.m.**
 - **An Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) inspector will be inspecting the Leaburg Dam bridge. The inspector expects the work to take one hour. The work will block the one-lane bridge, closing it down to traffic. The closures will be for periods of up to 15 minutes after the arrival of a vehicle before letting them pass through. The team from DOWL on contract for ODOT will have flaggers.**
 - **Please arrange your travel accordingly, let your neighbors know, and thank you for your patience.**
-

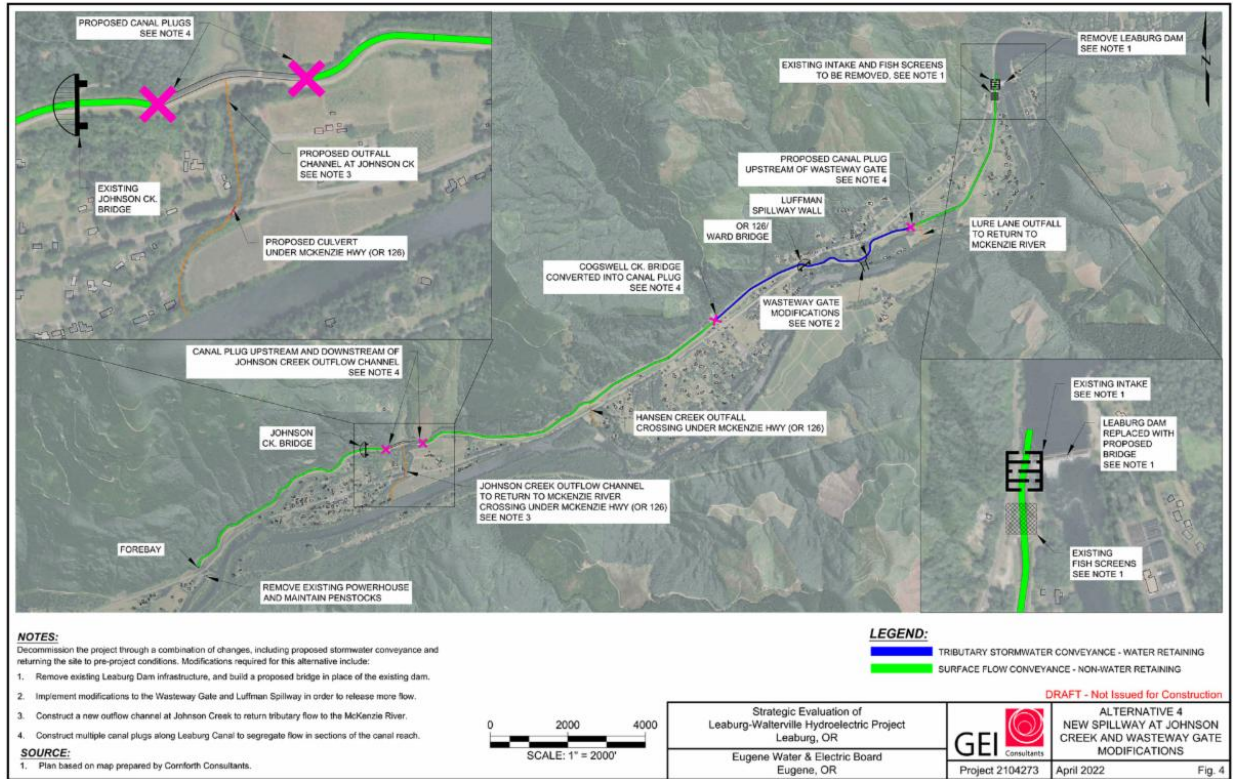
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Adam Spencer

EWEB Communication Specialist

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Sent by adam.spencer@eweb.org



Leaburg Canal Update - August 9, 2022

Join EWEB Staff at this evening's final Leaburg Listening Session, Lloyd Knox Park, 4pm-8pm

Please join EWEB staff to discuss the future of the Leaburg Project at tonight's final Listening Session up at Leaburg Lake.

Next steps:

- We will publish a video that explains the problems with the canal and the four proposed alternatives for the future configuration of the project.
- Sept. bill message will provide more information about the project
- Listening sessions and webinars will be scheduled for Eugene-based customers
- Leaburg Project Team will present correspondence at October Board Meeting
- Commissioners will discuss the project in Oct. 25 special session
- Commissioners expected to deliver decision in December

Watch: How the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project Works



The Leaburg Project has served our community with clean, reliable hydropower for nearly 100 years. Learn how it works in this graphic overview.

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM AVAILABLE: Leaburg Hydroelectric Project Strategic Evaluation

In deciding the future of the Leaburg Project, EWEB Commissioners will make a decision that **could** result in the removal of the Leaburg Dam, the draining of Leaburg Lake, and the demolition of the Leaburg Canal.

Commissioners are deciding between restoring power generation or decommissioning a nearly 100-year-old facility.

Commissioners are considering how to invest tens of millions of dollars in our community.

Please take 10-15 minutes to read about the many ramifications of these decisions, then provide your feedback for how these decisions may impact you. Commissioners are evaluating the financial costs of their decision, the environmental impacts of each repair alternative, and the social impacts: how each decision would affect Leaburgers and EWEB customers.

<http://eweb.org/LeaburgPublicComment>

For a more in-depth refresher, you can start at the [Leaburg Project Website](#):
<http://eweb.org/leaburgcanal>

Sign up for this newsletter (if someone forwarded it to you): <http://eweb.org/leaburgnewsletter>

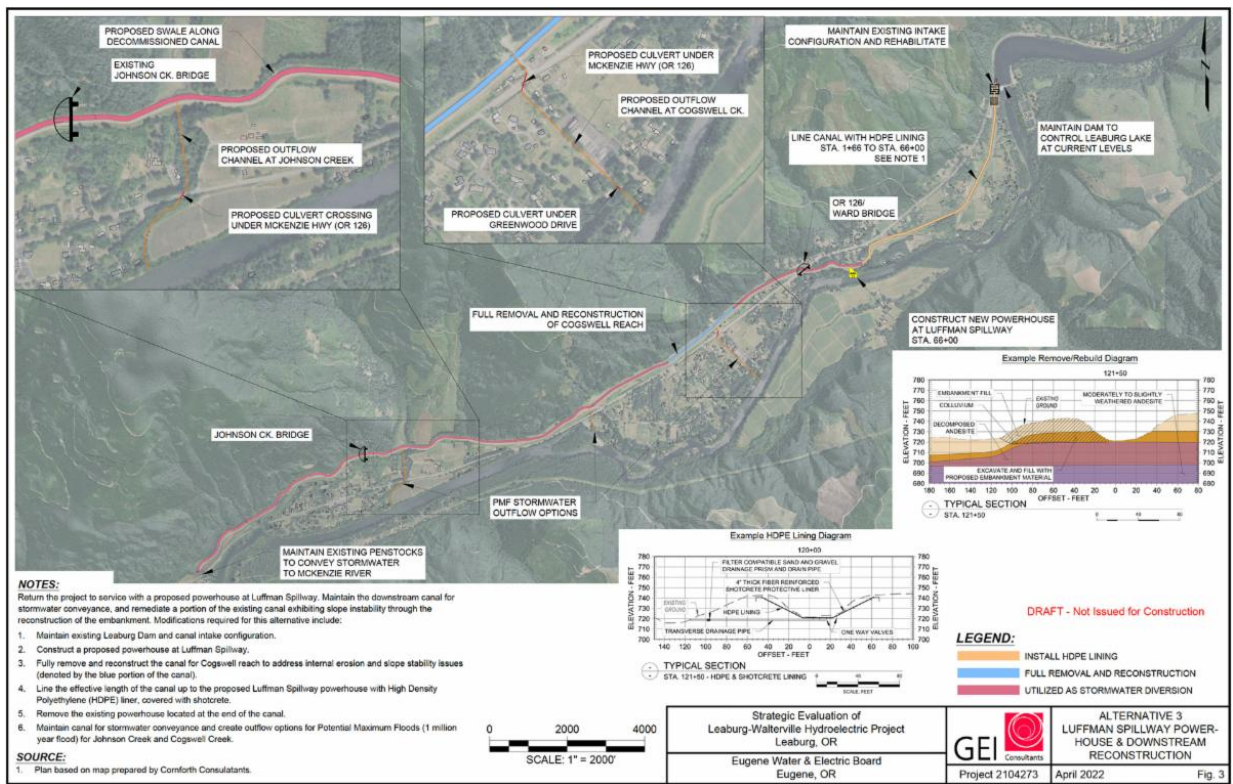
Last week's Board Meeting included updates about Leaburg Project

On Tuesday, August 2, at 6:30 p.m., the **Leaburg Project team presented the latest information** (click to download their memo) to EWEB's elected Commissioners.

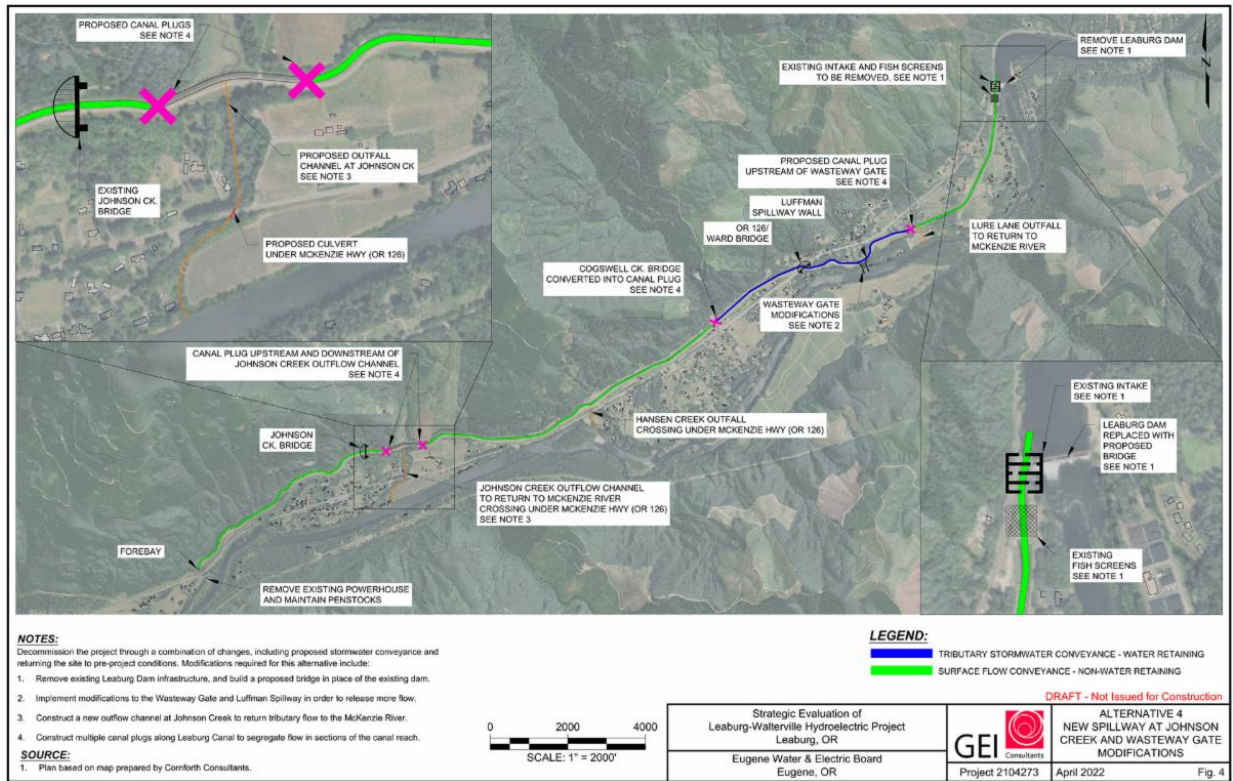
The "**Work Session**" (Video Recording) included updated cost estimates, and details on the Triple Bottom Line Assessment process.

Four proposed alternatives for the future configuration of the project (nothing new for now - just a refresher)

Alternative 1 represents the full removal of all facilities to pre-project conditions – as if the Leaburg Project were never built.



Alternative 4 would decommission the canal, combining “stormwater conveyance” alterations to sections of the canal with the restoration of other parts of the Leaburg Project to pre-project conditions, including a new spillway at Johnson Creek and modification to the Luffman spillway. This alternative is a flexible option that converts short-term risk reduction measures that are under consideration into a long-term solution.



The Project Team will continue to work with our consultants and EWEB employees from multiple departments to study the financial, social and environmental impacts to the utility, our customers, and the upriver community.

Meanwhile, the Project Team will carry on with the prioritization of near-term risk reduction alternatives. Risk reduction measures will include reversible canal configuration changes, such as isolating portions of the canal from the high flow creeks, and canal-wide efforts, such as proactive removal of unhealthy trees that could fall into the canal during a storm and obstruct water flow.

Thank you for your involvement in our community. Please call or email me if you have any questions, and I hope to see you up at the lake soon.

Sincerely,

Adam Spencer

EWEB Communication Specialist

541-685-7539



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Leaburg Project Update - September 12, 2022

[Learn about the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project Strategic Evaluation](#)

The Project Team held six Leaburg Lake Listening Sessions to hear from the upriver community about how the proposed alternatives would impact them as part of the social considerations of the Triple Bottom Line Assessment. We are holding additional information and Q&A sessions for Eugene customers in September and October. A summary of customers' concerns gathered through dialogues at these sessions, as well as those submitted through the **Public Comment Form** (until Oct. 10), will be shared with Commissioners as part of the social impacts consultation.

EWEB customers are invited to EWEB's Roosevelt Operations Center (4200 Roosevelt Blvd.) for screenings of the "[Determining the Future of the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project](#)" video and Q&A sessions on the following dates:

- **Monday, September 12, 2022 (5:30 - 7:30pm)**
- **Wednesday, September 28, 2022 (5:30 - 7:30pm)**
- **Thursday, October 6, 2022 (4-6:00 pm)**

In addition, EWEB staff will present virtual webinars for "Lunch & Learn" sessions. Click on the dates below to register:

- **Tuesday September 13, 2022 (12pm - 1pm)**
- **Tuesday September 27, 2022 (12pm - 1pm)**

If you can't make these Listening Sessions, you can also provide your input here: <http://eweb.org/LeaburgPublicComment>

Sincerely,
Adam Spencer
EWEB Communication Specialist
541-685-7539



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Leaburg Project Update - September 26, 2022

Last chances to attend Q&A Sessions about the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project Strategic Evaluation

TOMORROW! Join the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project Strategic Evaluation Team for a **virtual "Lunch & Learn"** and a chance to ask your questions about the future of the Leaburg Project!

- **Tuesday September 27, 2022 (12pm - 1pm)**

WEDNESDAY! EWEB customers are invited to EWEB's **Roosevelt Operations Center (4200 Roosevelt Blvd.)** for screenings of the "**Determining the Future of the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project**" video and Q&A sessions on the following dates:

- **Wednesday, September 28, 2022 (5:30 - 7:30pm)**
- **Thursday, October 6, 2022 (4-6:00 pm)**

If you can't make these Listening Sessions, you can also provide your input here: <http://eweb.org/LeaburgPublicComment>

The Project Team held six Leaburg Lake Listening Sessions to hear from the upriver community about how the proposed alternatives would impact them as part of the social considerations of the Triple Bottom Line Assessment. We have already held two information and Q&A sessions for Eugene customers.

A summary of customers' concerns gathered through dialogues at these sessions, as well as those submitted through the **Public Comment Form** (until Oct. 10), will be shared with Commissioners as part of the social impacts consultation.

Sincerely,
Adam Spencer
EWEB Communication Specialist
541-685-7539





Leaburg Canal Update - December 6, 2022

EWEB Commissioners to consider decommissioning Leaburg Hydroelectric Project

Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) General Manager Frank Lawson recommends the Board of Commissioners should vote to "permanently discontinue electricity generation at the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project."

Lawson's recommendation represents the collective expertise of EWEB staff and consultants, following two years of in-depth analyses and an extensive public outreach process.

Internal erosion and seismically vulnerable soils among portions of the Leaburg Canal forced EWEB to shut down the hydroelectric project in 2018 and evaluate whether heavy investments into repairing the canal would be cost-effective, or if it is time for EWEB to decommission the 90-year-old project and cease generation.

The Leaburg project has historically generated about 4% of Eugene's electricity needs. If EWEB were to continue generating, staff calculated the project would produce electricity at least three times more expensive than other carbon-free options.

EWEB will petition the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), which already provides EWEB with about 80% of its energy, to replace the energy that would be lost by decommissioning Leaburg. EWEB will ask BPA to provide that additional energy at the low-cost, Tier 1 rate reserved for public power utilities across the region.

In addition to economic considerations, Lawson points to the benefits that decommissioning Leaburg would yield to McKenzie River water quality and fisheries, as well as alignment with the utility's core mission and customer-owner priorities to reduce costs.

"Permanently discontinuing electricity generation at the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project will result in the removal of the dam, restoring the McKenzie River to unobstructed flow and eliminating the human-made Leaburg Lake behind the dam," Lawson writes. "EWEB's mission does not directly prioritize creating or managing recreational facilities, transportation assets, or other non-electricity or drinking water activities," Lawson states.

To maintain access to the south side of the river, Lawson recommends developing alternative access via Goodpasture Bridge.

All of the alternatives EWEB has studied would require capital investments tallying more than \$150 million and would result in substantial rate increases over time. The recommended direction is the lowest-cost alternative. EWEB forecasts that this alternative might require the utility to raise electricity rates by 9-10% between 2023 and 2040.

"As a publicly owned utility, it's our responsibility to make the best decision for our customer-

owners while also being good stewards of the McKenzie River,” said Generation Manager Lisa Krentz. “This has been a difficult decision that includes significant trade-offs and impacts to our community. We look forward to continuing to work with our customers and upriver neighbors as we plan for the next steps of this project.”

Next steps:

- Lawson and staff will present their recommendation to Commissioners at today's (Dec. 6) Board Meeting. All community members are invited to attend at the EWEB Roosevelt Operations Center, 4200 Roosevelt Blvd. at 5:45 p.m.
- You can view the live stream at <https://tinyurl.com/EWEB-Board-Meeting-12-06-22>.
- The Board will determine a future date to vote on a Record of Decision to endorse or decline the proposal, which will set in motion an implementation and action plan towards decommissioning.
- If approved, EWEB anticipates several years of planning and settlement negotiations prior to construction commencing likely in the 2030s.
- Work on near-term risk reduction measure projects will start as soon as next year but the potential work to remove the dam and lake will likely not begin for 10 years or more.

Read the General Manager's Recommendation and the supplemental materials of the Triple Bottom Line Assessment: **Goal #3(a): General Manager's Recommendation - Leaburg Canal TBL & Strategic Assessment Final Findings**

Frequently Asked Questions about the Implications of Decommissioning Leaburg

1. What does this recommendation mean for the Leaburg Project?

a. **Dam Removal:** This direction includes removing the Leaburg Dam, restoring the human-made Leaburg Lake to an unobstructed river, and building a road to connect properties that have used the dam as a bridge to the Goodpasture Bridge a few miles upstream.

b. **Canal Repairs:** EWEB would reinforce the Leaburg Canal to act as a stormwater conveyance facility, taking the tributary creeks that flow into the canal back to the McKenzie River. EWEB would modify sections of the canal to reconnect certain creeks directly to the river.

2. Without the dam, will flooding be an issue?

a. The Leaburg Dam is a run-of-the-river facility, meaning it doesn't play a role in reducing the impact of floods. The dam serves to direct water into the canal, rather than impounding water to store it for hydropower generation. When in operation, the dam would divert only a maximum of 2,500 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water into the canal and the rest of the McKenzie River would flow through the dam's rollgates. Because the Leaburg Project is run-of-the-river, its generation potential is directly influenced by water availability – a further risk consideration as climate change threatens to reduce summer flows and therefore would likely reduce the amount of energy the project could produce.

3. When will construction begin?

a. If approved, we anticipate several years of planning and settlement negotiations prior to any construction related to decommissioning. Major decommissioning work is not anticipated to commence until the beginning of the 2030s, at the earliest. Work on near-term risk reduction measure projects will start as soon as next year (i.e. canal plugs for directing stormwater and an outfall gate at Johnson Creek), but the work to remove the dam and lake will likely not begin for 10 years or more.

4. How will this decision impact customer electricity rates?

a. We estimate the costs to carry out this decision would require EWEB to raise electric rates by 9-10% between 2023 and 2040.

5. What about Irrigators and properties with water access?

a. EWEB will work to mitigate water rights and water access issues where legally obligated and facilitate water access where possible, specifically for fish hatcheries.

6. How did EWEB communicate with the public about this decision?

a. We've held a dozen meetings with the Eugene and upriver communities this year and have presented at community meetings like the Springfield Lions, the Santa Clara Neighborhood Association, and the Eugene Chamber of Commerce. We've also reached out to 23 other neighborhood associations, worked with local media outlets to cover the project, and communicated the project to all customers on the September bill message. We received over 420 responses to a public comment form that was open from June through October, and have compiled thousands of comments as part of assessing the social impacts of the Triple Bottom Line Assessment.

Thank you for your involvement in our community. Please call or email me if you have any questions, and I hope to see you up at the lake soon.

Sincerely,
Adam Spencer
EWEB Communication Specialist
541-685-7539



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McKenzie River Bulletin - May 9, 2023

EWEB Upriver Board Meeting, May 16, 2023

Topics include:

- Decommissioning the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project
- McKenzie River watershed restoration efforts
- Wildfire Mitigation program
- Holiday Farm Fire recovery programs
- Carmen-Smith project & recreation
- Customer Projects

Doors Open: 5:30 p.m.

Presentations Begin: 6:00 p.m.

McKenzie Fire & Rescue Training Center

42870 McKenzie Hwy Leaburg, OR 97489

Frequently Asked Questions about Decommissioning the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project

Read more at: eweb.org/LeaburgCanalFAQ

Q: Why did [EWEB Commissioners vote to decommission the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project?](#)

A: In short:

- Cost of investing in the facility vs. purchasing replacement power.
- Protecting against future liability risks.
- Elimination of long-term, non-mission-based obligations.
- Uncertainty of generation potential due to regulatory and climate concerns.
- Alignment with customer values (reduce costs, preserve water quality, environmental stewardship).

EWEB conducted a Triple Bottom Line Assessment to identify and compare the financial, environmental, and social impacts of repairing the canal to resume hydropower generation or decommissioning the Project. The detailed multi-year evaluation revealed that the heavy expenses to return the Project to service would commit EWEB to a high cost of electricity (\$117/MWh) for at least the next forty years. Instead, EWEB will seek to purchase electricity from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) at a much lower cost while also exploring other lower cost alternatives to BPA. Closing the Leaburg facility would also lower EWEB's liability to future economic risks, as climate change and increasing regulations on hydropower generation raise further uncertainties as to the economic viability of the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project. Decommissioning the Leaburg Project also aligns with our customers' values to provide reliable

service, protect water quality, and reduce service costs.

Q: What will happen to Leaburg Dam Road?

A: The Leaburg Dam serves as a bridge to connect Leaburg Dam Road to Highway 126. Leaburg Dam Road serves several residential homes, as well as Lloyd Knox Park, the Leaburg Hatchery, and Whitewater Ranch. EWEB will collaborate with the agencies responsible for transportation in the area, including Lane County Public Works (LCPW) and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), to develop an access route that maintains connection between Leaburg Dam Road and Highway 126. EWEB will work with LCPW and ODOT to investigate all potential concepts including but not limited to connecting Leaburg Dam Road to an improved Leashore Drive and Goodpasture Road, modifying the existing dam structures to serve as a bridge only, or building a new bridge to replace the Leaburg Dam Road bridge. There will be a comprehensive alternatives analysis process with opportunities for all stakeholders to help identify important issues to consider during the decision-making process. At the end of decommissioning, it is EWEB's intent not to own, operate, or maintain non-mission-supporting assets including those exclusively used for transportation or recreation.

EWEB would like to emphasize:

- EWEB must collaborate with other agencies (LC and ODOT).
- This decision is not up to EWEB alone.
- EWEB intends to reduce our liability footprint with decommissioning the Project and does not intend to be responsible for long term maintenance of the selected access solution.
- We have already made contact with LC and ODOT.
- EWEB and partner agencies will identify the most appropriate solution, aiming to reduce social, environmental, and financial impacts.

Q: What will happen to Leaburg Lake? Will Lloyd Knox Park still be open?

A: Removing Leaburg Dam will return the McKenzie River to its natural flow, likely returning to its original channel along the Highway 126 side of this section (river right). During the decommissioning process, EWEB intends to keep Lloyd Knox Park open for recreation unless future construction activities require it closed for safety. Upon completing all decommissioning requirements, EWEB will evaluate whether to retain ownership of the park or seek to transfer ownership to a local recreation or environmental land management entity.

Q: How will this decision affect the Leaburg and McKenzie Hatcheries?

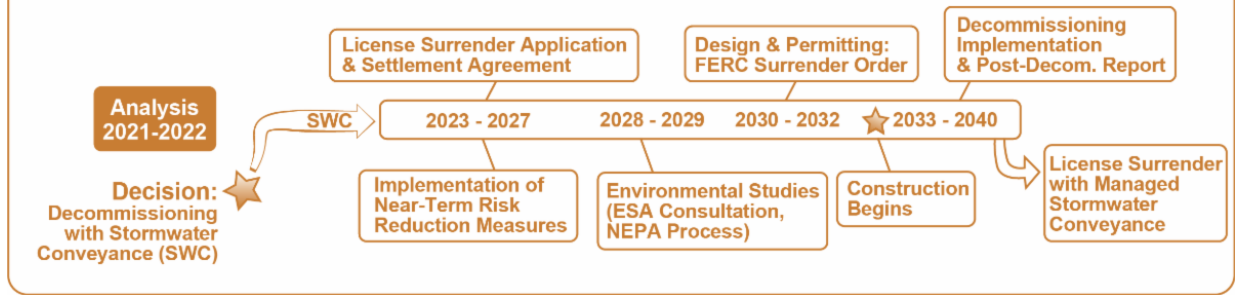
A: The Leaburg trout hatchery and McKenzie salmon hatchery have historically received water via the Leaburg Project. EWEB, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) have maintained long-term discussions about the vulnerability of the hatcheries to rely solely on the Leaburg Project for water supply. EWEB is not legally obligated to provide the hatcheries with water. While the Project was in operation, there was a good opportunity to provide our partners with their water supply. Moving forward, ODFW and USACE are aware that they will need to transition to new solutions for their water supplies. EWEB will continue to work together to support these facilities during their transition. With the Project dewatered, EWEB has closed the right bank fish ladder. Fish and lamprey are forced to use the left bank ladder, and ODFW operates a sorting facility to separate hatchery-bred Chinook salmon during spawning season. ODFW and volunteers ran the sorting facility for 7 days a week during the 2022 spawning season and they were able to get the proportion of hatchery-origin spawners (PHOS) down below 10%, which is a requirement in the Hatchery Genetic Management Plan (HGMP) for the McKenzie Hatchery.

Q: When will EWEB decommission the Project?

A: In short - not for at least a decade. Before EWEB begins any work on the ground, we'll have years of investigations and studies to conduct and extensive negotiations with various regulators, agencies, partners and interest groups. Here's a rough timeline of decommissioning milestones:



Leaburg Decommissioning Timeline: 2040 Road Map



Read more at: eweb.org/LeaburgCanalFAQ

EWEB Generation will NOT implement Walterville Canal flow restrictions for the summer of 2023

Based on snowpack data and summer flow forecasts available in early-April, the McKenzie Basin is projected to experience above median streamflow during the upcoming summer. Although SnoTel data from the Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates that current snowpack in the basin is roughly 96% of median, the McKenzie River streamflow forecasts for the April to September period at Vida (the closest forecast station) are 107% of median. **Accordingly, EWEB Generation will not implement the Walterville Canal flow restrictions identified in the January 2018 Record of Decision on May 20th.**

January 2018 Record of Decision on May 20th:

"In years with below median expected summer stream flows/snowpack, from May 20th through October 31st, EWEB will voluntarily adjust the power canal intake in order to maintain at least 10% more flow in the McKenzie bypass reach of the Walterville hydroelectric project than flows exiting the tailrace of the project."

For more information, download the related memo to EWEB Commissioners: [Annual Update - Walterville Canal Flow Restrictions for 2023](#)

Walterville Canal outage: June 3 - June 16

The outage is scheduled for June 3rd through the 16th for annual maintenance at the power plant and the fish screens.

EWEB may take the unit offline on the 2nd to complete repairs to the penstocks. During penstock repairs, the canal will remain full but the powerhouse will no longer be passing water, so the tailrace will have a decreased flow. This is a normal occurrence but would be a day ahead to the scheduled time.

Sincerely,
Adam Spencer
EWEB Communication Specialist
541-685-7539



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