

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD
REGULAR SESSION
EWEB BOARD ROOM
JULY 16, 2013
5:30 P.M.

Commissioners Present: John Simpson, President; John Brown, Vice President; Dick Helgeson, James Manning and Steve Mital

Others Present: Roger Gray, Mel Damewood, Erin Erben, Matt Sayre, Todd Simmons, Mark Freeman, Sheila Crawford, Joe Harwood, Cathy Bloom, Wally McCullough, Frank Lawson, Sue Fahey, Brad Taylor, Lena Kostopulos, Anne Kah, Jeannine Parisi, Karl Morgenstern, Edward Yan, Kim Morgan, Jill Hoyenga, Patty Boyle, Harvey Hall, Roger Kline, Tom Williams, Greg Armstead, Deborah Hart, Lance Robertson, Kevin Biersdorff, Greg Armstead, and Taryn Johnson of the EWEB staff; Vicki Maxon, recorder.

President Simpson convened the Regular Session of the Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) at 5:40 p.m.

AGENDA CHECK

There were no items.

ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Vice President Brown recalled that he had participated in the annual McKenzie River clean-up on Saturday, July 13 near the Hayden Bridge intake, and that the group had once again had picked up a truckload of trash. He said it is unfortunate that there is still that level of disrespect for the river, but it is there. He urged everyone to do what they can to help keep the river clean.

Vice President Brown stated that he has again had several inquiries about the Rosboro bridge, and there are river users who are concerned about it falling into the river because it continues to have a tree growing into it and is continuing to fall into disrepair. He asked General Manager Gray to get back to him regarding the bridge's status, and whether it is just going to fall into the river or if there are plans to do something with it.

General Manager Gray replied that he would follow up with Rosboro Lumber directly.

Commissioner Helgeson apologized in advance that he will not be able to attend the July 23 public forum regarding smart metering due to a change in his personal schedule. He said he is very interested in that forum, and he hopes there will be a recording or videotape that he can access later.

Vice President Simpson replied that he will be recording it (audio) and can share his recording with Commissioner Helgeson, and he asked Taryn Johnson, Executive Assistant to the Board and General Manager, to have a backup for his recording.

Commissioner Mital thanked the audience for attending tonight's meeting. He congratulated Commissioner Manning on being appointed last year by Governor Kitzhaber to the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs, and on being elected as the agency's chairman last month.

Commissioner Mital noted that the carbon study bill has passed in the Legislature so funding will now be available, and that this will impact the positives and the negatives of adopting a carbon tax down the road. He added that EWEB invests a significant amount of capital and dollars for their lobbyist, and that this benefits the EWEB community, for which everyone should be proud.

Commissioner Mital then recalled that the Register-Guard had published an article regarding EWEB's proposed smart metering on Sunday, July 14. While it was nice to receive that attention, he noted that the article had contained a fairly egregious mistake in mentioning that there is likely to be an opt-out policy for EWEB customers who don't want a smart meter, and it made a comparison to customers in Portland who pay \$750 a year for the opt-out policy. He noted that EWEB has made no comment whatsoever that they would charge a similar fee for opt-out, and in fact if they do, it would be dramatically lower, i.e., \$20 per month, but that has yet to be discussed by the Board. He told the audience that if they are upset about the potential changes coming down, the Register-Guard is doing them a disservice by misinforming them, and that they ought to consider writing to them to ask them for a more accurate version of the truth; and that if they came to tonight's meeting to specifically complain about the opt-out charge, that is something that needs to be addressed by the Register-Guard because of their misinformation.

Commissioner Manning welcomed the public and reminded them that EWEB is a citizen-owned utility. He said that he and Commissioner Helgeson had attended the July 8 City Council meeting which had included approval of EWEB's Riverfront Master Plan, and he commended Commissioner Helgeson and staff for doing a marvelous job. He added that he believes that Eugene residents will greatly benefit from those efforts as the project moves forward. He appreciated Commissioner Mital for congratulating him on his recent appointment. He told the audience that serving the community is something he and his fellow Commissioners aspire to do with the best interests of all citizens in mind. He reminded the audience that the Board carefully weighs all information that they receive, and he reiterated that the Board has not made a decision on smart metering. He appreciated the audience's patience and understanding.

PUBLIC INPUT

Regarding the Board's consent calendar, former EWEB Commissioner **Bob Cassidy** recalled that during his tenure, many items in the consent calendar involved operational costs, and there was no way a Commissioner could evaluate the need for such costs. As Vice President Brown had previously mentioned, there was an issue that brought up Board responsibility, for instance, if a contract did or did not involve local vendors, and it seemed that staff always had

good reason to do what was recommended. This information about the operation of EWEB was valuable to the Board, but the down side was that it could easily lead to micromanaging. Mr. Cassidy stated that he believes that the issue is not about the amount of money being approved, but rather that the Board needs to be aware of the social impact of EWEB contracts and the possibility of a conflict of interest by staff. He suggested crafting a new policy not involving the dollar amount, but around Board responsibility, and he believes the practice of being kept informed regarding contracts that had been awarded would do this. It would also simplify the process and give Board members the opportunity to question contract arrangements and make future changes--for example, the advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) contract would have been pre-approved, but the knowledge of it gives the Board a heads up on where they are in the AMI process, and that would be good enough.

Greg Giesy reported that his group of College Hill neighbor volunteers continues their College Hill reservoir watch, and that there have no problems with dog feces, and that there was no fireworks damage from the 4th of July. He added that telescopes were placed near the reservoir for the 4th of July, and that the public was invited to look through the telescopes instead of being on the reservoir, and that most of them appreciated seeing a little more fireworks than could previously be seen from the reservoir. He closed by saying that things seem to be going well and that he hopes what his group has been doing meets the Board's expectations.

Kathy Ging gave the following testimony:

"EWEB should postpone smart meter decisions, in light of the fact that, as one Commissioner notes, we are about the only utility that does not have a backup water source (at a cost of \$150 million), and there is great debate not sufficiently discussed about whether smart water meters will work in an 18" water table, in which event meter readers would be necessary and anticipated savings not reached.

After studying smart meters for two years and reading Board minutes, including from a retreat while Randy Berggren was General Manager, I noted that one Commissioner still on the Board positioned that resistance in the community could arise. One remarked that public outreach would be needed.

That is where we still are—staff, Board, ratepayers and media make numerous unnecessary mistakes because EWEB did not take earlier advice and set up a citizen committee to research and do outreach and education. The dumb down approach failed.

As I recommended in my edited testimony from June 4, set up two advisory committees—to research in depth pros and cons of smart meters, grid. Otherwise citizens may rewrite your motto: Rely On Us (question mark). Members of the two committees should be selected in cooperation with Citizens for Safe Meters, retired energy professionals, and lay persons.

A few of the many contentious issues unresolved regard health, privacy, cyber insecurity, cost of a still-dubious morphing technology, questionable goals of time of day pricing saving

ratepayers money in light of its failure elsewhere, electricity theft, fires, insurance company resistance to reimbursing homeowners, and EWEB future liability.

Issues the committee should address:

Explaining through media, including your newsletters, which had a lot of blanks last issue, that there at least five types of smart meters:

Wired via fiber optics OR broadband over power line OR high OR low frequency (EPUD and Lane Electric use low-frequency, which does not allow cumulative data of personal electric use or time of day pricing) OR ones with phone lines OR wireless like the mesh net EWEB decided against primarily because of Families for Safe Meters OR Sensus-USA point to point system whose effects on health are not clearly defined. PLUS remotely read meters installed in 9,000 homes. Staff wrote me that techies cannot talk to Sensus techies until AFTER the \$26 million contract is signed!

In grade school we were taught: THINK then DO. Tap journalistic and scholarly abilities of our erudite community. Let the debate begin.

Regardless of off ramps contracts may allow, EWEB had a tragic flaw in its critical path planning. Ironically, staff at the budget meeting used the phrase Keeping the Public in the Publicly Owned Utility, yet omitted sending me the notice of the meeting that they sent to groups that they had funded like BRING, Good Company, and others.

Some mistakes made in the past:

John Brown telling me NO, that EPUD did not have wired meters. But they do. A correction should appear in the Register-Guard, as the reporter got it wrong, too.

Simpson and Brown stating that natural gas meters are installed and there are no problems, ignoring the letter Simpson read from a South Eugene woman on 4/17/12 who had adverse health effects from sleeping two feet from a gas smart meter for years. Northwest Natural told me, however, that there is NO gas smart meter! Yet it was transmitting several times a minute.

YES, the public has made mistakes, too, quoting staff and Board who do not have the right credentials or journalistic or scholarly independence to correct the CCST report on its site by adding the critique of UC Santa Cruz nuclear policy analyst Daniel Hirsch and medical critiques of Drs. Magda Havas, Sam Milham, David Carpenter, Ollie Johannsen, Karl Maret, etc.

Again the public asks, can we REALLY rely on EWEB anymore?

I enclose a page from the Neptune water smart meter manual that states that it transmits every 14 seconds. This is the meter that caused health concerns to a North Dakota woman who can no longer play piano after 30 years, and has heart palpitations due to a Neptune being

installed on the other half of her duplex. She threatened to sue the Fargo Water District if they installed one on her side, and then moved.”

Roseann Raymond noted that EWEB Board meetings last 4-5 hours and at some point the Commissioners have to eat dinner. She wondered how comfortable it is for the Commissioners to eat in front of so many people, and she suggested that Board meetings could start at 4:30 p.m., as it might be more comfortable for the Commissioners to eat alone instead in front of an audience. She told the Commissioners that she appreciates the amount of time they devote to the Board and that she wants their meal time to be comfortable.

Vice President Brown thanked the public for attending tonight’s meeting, whether they had testified or not. He thanked Mr. Cassidy for the good point, and said that he had met with staff and a couple of other people, and that the Board is probably going to do exactly what he suggested—get a summary of who the contractor is, the cost, etc., and therefore will not have to hear from staff at a meeting. That way if there is repetition of outsourcing, etc., the Board can respond when constituents ask.

He thanked Mr. Giesy for his group’s effort at College Hill Reservoir, and he recalled that he was on the Board when \$800,000 was spent to repair the reservoir. He appreciated Mr. Giesy’s efforts and said EWEB will continue to work with him, and he reminded Mr. Giesy that the Board’s #1 priority is to protect EWEB’s water source.

He thanked Ms. Ging for her testimony.

He thanked Ms. Raymond for her kind words and said that the Board doesn’t particularly like eating in front of an audience, but they were required to be at today’s meeting at 4:30 p.m. so they went ahead and ate dinner.

Commissioner Helgeson noted that tonight’s public testimony had included four different topics, and he commended them for highlighting their appreciation in some cases.

Commissioner Mital had nothing to add but thanked the public for their testimony.

Commissioner Manning appreciated tonight’s public testimony. He appreciated Mr. Giesy’s efforts regarding College Hill Reservoir and thanked him for putting a team together to help make sure that EWEB’s water source isn’t contaminated.

He thanked Ms. Raymond for her comments about Commissioners eating their dinner at meetings, and agreed that it does seem a bit uncomfortable.

He reminded the audience that EWEB is their utility and that they own it, and added that he is glad to see the public getting involved and joining discussions.

President Simpson said that public process is important for EWEB and that they are a not for profit utility, and that they rely on feedback from the community to help Commissioners

guide staff in their political decisions. He said it is thrilling for him to hear feedback and especially to hear solutions.

He told Mr. Giesy that his College Hill neighbors group was a success story, and that while he had his doubts in the beginning, he is pretty pleased so far. He asked if Mr. Giesy's group has a web camera that is constantly trained on the facility.

Mr. Giesy replied that they have talked about having a web camera but they do not, but if it is something EWEB would like to have, they will get one.

President Simpson replied that that wasn't necessary and he was just wondering how their monitoring was done. He asked Mr. Giesy and his group to keep up the good work, and said that EWEB would work with him with as much gusto as they have showed toward EWEB. He added that if the situation stays the same, things will be okay, but if there is degradation of the social aspect, EWEB will have to work with his group to see how control can be ratcheted up.

President Simpson then closed public input, but then reopened it when it came to his attention that another person wished to offer testimony.

Yaqin Sliwinski and his wife just became grandparents of two boys. He said he doesn't normally have worries and fears about being a grandparent but he is now mortally afraid because the babies' nursery is on the other side of the wall from an electric meter. Based on his own experience with illness response to exposure to these types of frequencies and the thousands of independent worldwide researchers on radiation, it causes him great concern. He is wondering if any proponents of smart metering could give him personal assurance that his grandsons will not be harmed in any way by a smart meter. He believes that children are our greatest concern because their skulls are much thinner and more permeable, and things can pass through their skulls more quickly. He pointed out that this metering technology has been chosen because of its permeability, and that it can pass through walls, trees, etc., and also a skull. He added that even though he heard talk at the last meeting that the radiofrequency effect is no worse than a cell phone, that doesn't bring him great comfort, and that prior to this type of technology, there was not one single government-funded study to insure that was safe before its release to public.

Commissioner Helgeson reiterated that a public presentation regarding smart metering will occur on Tuesday, July 23 and will include information on these types of radiofrequency transmissions. He hoped that staff will eventually be able to provide a clear explanation of what exactly is involved in these meters and their transmission so that some of the confusion can be resolved.

General Manager Gray reiterated that the public presentation will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 23 at EWEB's Roosevelt Operations Center at 4200 Roosevelt Blvd. Attendees can park in front of the building and cross the bridge to the main entrance to check in. Additional information has been posted on EWEB's website (www.eweb.org). He added that the general agenda will consist of a webinar by Dr. Peter Valberg from Harvard University and a

presentation by local physician Paul Dart, M.D., but there will not be an opportunity for public testimony.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MINUTES

1a. June 4, 2013 Regular Session

CONTRACTS

2. Black Box Network Services – ROLM telephone system maintenance and support at HQ, Hayden Bridge, Carmen-Smith and Leaburg/Waltermville – \$54,000. Contact Person is Matt Sayre.

3. Evans, Elder & Brown – Sale of Light Industrial Property - \$60,000 (plus buyer agent commission and closing costs). Contact Person is Steve Newcomb.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS

4. Public Agency Network (PAN) Operations – for a six-month interim budget for the Public Agency Network (PAN) Operations in FY 2013-2014 - Engineering Services – \$88,592 (for six months). Contact Person is Dean Ahlsten.

RESOLUTIONS

5. Resolution No. 1301 – Amended – Board Appointments, Board Committees, Advisory Committees and Outside Liaisons. Contact Person is Roger Gray.

6. Resolution No. 1308 – EWEB Financial Policies. Contact Person is Cathy Bloom.

7. Resolution No. 1315 – Electric Rate Setting. Contact Person is Cathy Bloom.

8. Resolution No. 1317 – Headquarters Building Lease. Contact Person is Steve Newcomb.

OTHER

9. College Hill Reservoir Access Plan – Contact Person is Brad Taylor.

10. Dissolve ad-hoc subcommittee to review General Manager's Employment Contract – Contact Person is Lena Kostopulos.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Vice President Brown pulled item #3.

It was moved by Commissioner Manning, seconded by Vice President Brown, to approve the remainder of the Consent Calendar. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

Before offering his own comments, Vice President Brown deferred to General Manager Gray for an explanation of item #3, since it is a contract with Vice President Brown's company and his name appears in the contract.

General Manager Gray explained that this contract consisted of a competitive bid process and that Vice President Brown was not aware of the request for proposal (RFP) in advance, and that Vice President Brown found out about it at the same time as the other Commissioners, as part of the Board run (document delivery to Commissioners prior to each Board meeting). He added that Vice President Brown recused himself from voting on the contract award. General Manager Gray reiterated that it is crystal clear that this was a competitive bid process, that he was aware of the RFP, and that he is very comfortable with the process and with advice from legal counsel that Vice President Brown should recuse himself from voting on the contract award.

Vice President Brown added that, based on his understanding of the RFP, EWEB had requested this RFP for assistance with sale of property and that he didn't know that his partners had bid on it. He explained that his company is a cost-sharing company that consists of four principals (he being one of them) who are equal owners. For example, if he makes X amount of money on the sale of a property, it goes into the company account and is allocated to the person who generated the income. The four principals split common operating expenses, and then the individual who generated the income can draw on anything that is left over. If one of his partners makes X amount of money on the sale of a property, it doesn't affect the others in any way. He noted that the approval of this contract will have no economic effect on him (zero financial gain or any other gain), and that there is no conflict of interest, as he doesn't know which one of his partners got the bid. He reiterated that he will not be involved in this contract but will still offer his input on real estate matters.

Commissioner Manning thanked Vice President Brown for his explanation and recalled that he had a conversation with him about the contract, and that Vice President Brown was shocked to find out that his company had bid on it. He told Vice President Brown that he has a lot of respect for how he has handled this issue.

Vice President Brown added that anyone who wishes to can ask him questions about this issue and that he has no reservations about it.

Vice President Simpson asked General Manager Gray if staff is aware of the specific individual within Vice President Brown's firm who is the contact person, and asked if General Manager Gray is assured that Vice President Brown is taking a neutral stance.

General Manager Gray replied that he is aware of the contact person for this contract and that he can assure the Board that this was a surprise to Vice President Brown. He added that it is necessary to be careful with these types of issues because EWEB has to file annual statements with the State of Oregon regarding affiliations with the organization, and that staff is being ultra-conservative in this case because it's the right thing to do.

President Simpson also noted that Commissioner Mital is an employee of EWEB's largest customer, and that is another reason to be careful with these types of issues.

It was then moved by President Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Manning, to approve item #3, a contract with Evans, Elder & Brown for the sale of light industrial property. The motion passed 3-2 (Vice President Brown recused himself; Commissioner Mital voted no).

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE BOARD CONTRACTING APPROVAL THRESHOLDS

Cathy Bloom, Finance Manager, recalled that staff has been researching ways to change the Board's contracting approval thresholds, as the current process is not consistent with the process of other local and regional organizations. She noted that staff will now provide a quarterly report with more information and more oversight than the Board now receives, and that Gail Murray, Contracts & Purchasing Manager, has prepared a draft report that shows what staff will begin to provide in September 2013.

Ms. Bloom briefly explained how the new process will work and noted the following revisions to the Board contracting approval thresholds:

- Purchase of all goods, services, personal services and equipment - \$150,000 or greater
- Construction (no change) - \$100,000 or greater

Staff recommended aligning the Board contracting approval thresholds to match procurement thresholds and to create efficiencies for Board and staff.

Vice President Brown asked how the Board will know whether a contract is a no-bid contract. Ms. Murray replied that the contract will be listed as "direct negotiate."

Vice President Brown thanked Ms. Murray for the information and said that his previous questions have been satisfied.

President Simpson asked staff to add a column that lists the staff contact and their direct line number. He also asked if presenting a report twice a year would be more workable for staff.

Ms. Murray replied that staff will issue a quarterly report at the beginning and if that becomes too often, it can be changed.

Vice President Brown asked for confirmation on whether or not all Board communication is supposed to go through General Manager Gray, and he wondered if a staff contact person would need to be listed.

General Manager Gray suggested that the Board contact Ms. Murray for any and all questions they may have.

Commissioner Helgeson stated that he is pleased to see this change in approval thresholds. He asked for a summary of what the current thresholds are, what thresholds will be new, and how this compares to the thresholds of public contracting law and Oregon administrative rules.

Ms. Murray briefly summarized how the revised thresholds were established, taking public contracting law and Oregon Administrative Rules into consideration.

President Simpson asked that a date column be added to the report, and that the items be listed in chronological order.

Commissioner Helgeson thanked Ms. Murray for preparing the draft report.

It was moved by Vice President Brown, seconded by Commissioner Helgeson, to approve the revised Board contracting approval thresholds. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

In regard to his no vote on item #3 of the consent calendar (regarding the contract with Evans, Elder & Brown), Commissioner Mital stated that he has absolute confidence in Vice President Brown's integrity, but his concern is that the explanation that Vice President Brown gave this evening will be lost to history, and that what will be remembered is that his company got the contract. He reiterated that his interest lies with protecting the integrity of Vice President Brown and his company.

Vice President Brown appreciated Commissioner Mital's concern but stated that he doesn't believe his business partner should be penalized for that. He referenced another recent contract that someone had brought to EWEB that the Board had approved, and neither that person nor their company was penalized. He reiterated that he isn't worried about his integrity and that if anyone wants to speak to him about it, that is fine with him.

General Manager Gray reiterated that legal counsel was consulted regarding this matter, and he reminded the Board that even though none of them can vote on a conflict of interest, none of them nor their family can be punished, either.

WATER AND ELECTRIC 10-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANS (CIP)

Mel Damewood, Engineering Manager, recalled that in April 2013, staff presented a revised five-year CIP for both Water and Electric, including some significant reductions in the respective CIPs. Since April, staff has met with Board members to review the Electric and Water Utility's direction and strategy with the CIPs, outlining Engineering's recommendations of prioritizations, taking into account such factors as safety, reliability, and other triple bottom line (TBL) attributes in order to reach a balanced CIP.

Using overheads, Mr. Damewood reviewed electric CIP results and 2014 electric budget highlights, and water CIP results and 2014 water budget highlights.

In response to a question from President Simpson, Mr. Damewood explained how the proposed replacement of meters for the proposed AMI project has been broken down in the CIP.

Vice President Brown recalled that the City of Eugene is considering extending water service to Goshen area. He wondered if that consideration has been broached to EWEB and if there is infrastructure in place.

Mr. Damewood replied that the Goshen area is served by Willamette Water Company (WWC) and that staff is looking at ways to run water lines around Franklin Blvd. through Judkins Point, etc., as that would be the route that would help supply any great increase demand that WWC might have. He noted that this consideration has been part of staff's thought process but is not part of EWEB's capital, and that the infrastructure would be owned by EWEB until the point of service, which would be a negotiated meter spot.

Commissioner Mital asked if the planning and possible upgrade for College Hill Reservoir is part of the CIP.

Mr. Damewood replied that there is money budgeted for structural improvements but there are not any solutions yet in order to make cost estimates, and study will be needed in order to figure that out. He added that a comprehensive study is done every 10 years and some of those specific issues will be addressed in that study.

Commissioner Helgeson appreciated that second source water is represented in the CIP. He asked what the basis is for the cost estimate.

Mr. Damewood replied that there is a placeholder for second source but the overall cost has been ratcheted down. He explained that this represents the first increment of second source which will provide a limited amount of water and possibly set up an intake if needed, the first phase of treatment training, etc. He noted that \$50 million represents an incremental approach, and the full-blown modern plant would be a \$120 million figure if the McKenzie River became a non-viable source. Wally McCullough, Water Engineering Supervisor, added that the thumbnail represents a 10 million gallons per day (MGD) plant for some level of second source.

Vice President Brown asked if money has been set aside for the water emergency plan that the Board has discussed, and how many years it will take for it to be disaster-ready. Mr. Damewood replied that \$150,000 per year is being spent for a provisional water plan, and that six to eight water emergency trailers will be purchased over the next three to four years in order to be able to disburse them around town, which should cover most of the community.

Vice President Brown wondered if it would be do-able to ramp up that timeline if the Board desires. He also asked why another five trailers wouldn't be purchased right away.

Mr. McCullough replied that the first trailer that was purchased is being outfitted, and staff is learning as they go and testing the prototype before additional trailers will be bought.

General Manager Gray proposed that the Board have an additional discussion about this at a later meeting. He noted that Mr. Damewood had recently participated in the Cascadia assessment, and a lot of information and learning had come out of that. General Manager Gray also proposed that staff continue to test the first trailer before buying the additional five trailers, and that, if necessary, a five-year plan can be reduced to a one-year plan, but the bugs need to be worked out first.

President Simpson agreed to put this discussion on a future agenda. He stated that a Board tour of the intake facility is currently being set up and he wondered if a tour of the water emergency trailer could be included in that. Mr. Damewood said that it could.

President Simpson asked if there are any big ticket items for the Hayden Bridge water filtration plant. Mr. Damewood replied that the south side of the plant will be rebuilt in the next couple of years. He also explained that, due to federal regulations, gaseous chlorine may be outlawed, and its supply is getting less and less due to Department of Homeland Security issues.

President Simpson asked if there is a need to install ultraviolet disinfectant for Cryptosporidium. Mr. Damewood replied that staff will be evaluating that this fall, as they don't know if it would be needed or if that would be the right approach.

In response to a question from Commissioner Mital, Mr. Damewood explained the meaning of the new capital reserve target.

It was then moved by Vice President Brown, seconded by Commissioner Helgeson, to approve the 2014-2023 CIP and the 2014 capital budget. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

President Simpson called for a 15-minute recess.

2014 ELECTRIC AND WATER LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLANS

Ms. Bloom reviewed the agenda for tonight's presentation and also recalled what was presented at the March Board meeting. She then reviewed an outline of the proposed 2014 budget and a summary of financial initiative work to date.

Jeannine Parisi, Community and Local Government Outreach Coordinator debriefed the recent public drop-in financial session which 24 community members attended. She believes it yielded mixed results, but stated that her measure of success was the level of conversation at the various tables. She added that she remains cautiously optimistic about the value of this presentation, and that she has verbatim notes, comment cards, and notes from the facilitators that she will pass along to the Board.

She listed the following take-aways from the public financial session, and told the Board she is happy to share her notes with them if they are interested in seeing them.

- Appreciation of the work we are doing in terms of cuts and avenues for more revenue generation, i.e., selling property
- Concern about portfolio and costs
- Concern about project cuts
- The abrupt changes to conservation programs caught people off guard – reopening these programs in the fall would do a lot for public perception and regaining support from customers
- Process - ambitious about what could be covered in 1-1/2 hours. Could be more streamlined and focus more on the budget piece. Information overload at the end and might structure it differently.

President Simpson stated that he thought the use of clickers was great but that he would use it for actual statistical data next time instead of just for entertainment, i.e., set up the context, go through the questions, and then customers would click for their answers. He also said that he believes that there was not enough time to cover everything and that there should maybe be only one phase of questions, and that maybe the crowd would have stayed longer if the meeting was published to last longer.

Commissioner Manning stated that the presentation was very well-done with a lot of good participation, but he had originally thought the gathering of customers was the beginning of forming a customer budget committee, and that he had invited a friend to attend the presentation who was interested in the committee, so he was a bit taken back. He wondered when that plan changed.

Ms. Parisi replied that when goal objectives were considered, one was public information and awareness, and another was to reach out to do early education before soliciting for budget committee members and getting targeted names. She noted that staff invited customers who they had received e-mails from regarding the budget.

Commissioner Manning agreed that the education piece is very important and that customers need to receive information up front. He asked where staff is with regard to putting together the budget committee.

General Manager Gray stated that he believed that staff's recommendation was to put together a budget committee. Staff confirmed this.

President Simpson voiced concern that it will take 18 months to put together a budget committee, and he stated that he, too, had invited a guest who had attended because he thought the presentation would include a conversation about a budget committee.

Vice President Brown noted that the City Council has a budget committee that participates 100% in their budget process.

General Manager Gray stated that clearly there has been a disconnect, and that he will revisit this issue and put it back on the agenda sooner rather than later.

President Simpson reiterated that he doesn't want to wait until the end of next year to put a budget committee together. Commissioner Helgeson recalled that the Board had re-worked some of what Lance Robertson, Public Affairs Manager, had presented, but that staff was generally moving in the direction of a budget committee, working on transparency and public involvement, and generally wasn't anticipating moving off of that timeline.

General Manager Gray recalled what had previously been discussed and compared with what other utilities are doing in this regard. He said that he will do send a follow-up e-mail to the Board and will also re-send the previous staff presentations.

President Simpson asked General Manager Gray to draw the Board's attention to specific items that staff isn't yet sure about when he re-sends the previous presentations.

Commissioner Manning reiterated that the public budget presentation was very well-done and contained all the necessary elements. President Simpson added that the caliber of people who attended was high and that they asked great questions.

Commissioner Mital appreciated staff's effort and enthusiasm and the great presentations. He voiced concern that, having been on the Board for about six months and sitting in the audience for about a year previous to that, he still finds the budget process incredibly complicated, and that he "doesn't buy" the expectation that people will show up off the street and provide feedback that the Board can really act on and that is representative. He added that he sees it as a decent public relations exercise but not one that will gain actionable feedback, and he also noted that half of the people who attended were EWEB staff members. He said that, to be honest, he doesn't support this process going forward, but he does support community interest in particular programs—conservation and its economics and mechanics, and two or three others from the July 9 public budget presentation.

Ms. Parisi added that she believes that staff needs to consider the ongoing efficiency piece that **Scott Meisner** mentioned during the public presentation.

Commissioner Helgeson stated that he wasn't disappointed in the public presentation and took it for what it was, and that he thought it was powerful to tell customers that EWEB has lost \$7 million in the power market, because people understand that renewables cost money and he

believes that people are responsive to that type of information. He also said he thought it would be interesting to ask customers some tradeoff questions.

Ms. Parisi recalled Mr. Meisner's question of, if this is all the money that you have, what can you do with it, and that Mr. Meisner had stated that EWEB is the only agency who sets their rates first and then figures out their budget. She added that staff has done an incredible job of balancing the budget and maintaining the integrity of the organization.

President Simpson reiterated that he would like to have another public budget presentation in September and that he would like staff have a one-on-one conversation with each Commissioner regarding the structure of the presentation, and obviously to invite everyone who attended the first presentation.

Sue Fahey, Fiscal Services Supervisor, thanked Fiscal Services staff for their help with tonight's presentation. She then reviewed the long-term financial plan assumptions for both electric and water utilities.

Harvey Hall, Senior Financial Analyst, further reviewed the long-term financial plan for the electric utility, including proposed rate increases.

Vice President Brown asked if the amount of the proposed November 2013 rate increase is the best staff can do, or if it could be reduced. A brief discussion ensued. Ms. Bloom explained how staff had arrived at the proposed rate increase amount.

Vice President Brown urged staff to get a clear message out to the public that the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) unfunded liability has cost EWEB \$100 million. President Simpson echoed Vice President Brown's comment.

Ms. Fahey further reviewed the long-term financial plan for the water utility, including proposed rate increases. General Manager Gray asked Ms. Fahey to explain what was deferred from last year's water rate increase.

Edward Yan, Senior Budget/Rates Analyst, reviewed a summary of 2014 management-recommended budget assumptions.

Staff then answered additional questions from the Board.

Regarding the public's perception of endless rate increases, General Manager Gray noted that other utilities typically wait until they receive a BPA rate increase and then fashion a January rate increase on an annual basis.

Commissioner Manning stated that the smorgasbord of options is a bit overwhelming, and that he appreciates staff's presentation that allows him to better understand it. He asked staff for their "red flag" budget items.

Ms. Bloom stated that her concern is the \$96 million PERS unfunded liability.

Ms. Fahey stated that her concern is electric consumption, and that she believes that eventually rate increases may be lower than they presently are.

Mr. Yan stated that his concern is the net full-time equivalent (FTE) reductions and their effect on employees and morale.

Mr. Hall stated that his concern is the ongoing hedging activity by the trading floor, and that EWEB needs to continue to hedge its surplus line and to protect surplus power.

General Manager Gray recalled that EWEB absorbed essentially a 60% price reduction and that there will be minor impacts on reliability, but he reiterated that EWEB's reliability is at incredibly high levels and that the electric utility picture is good going forward. He reminded the Board that EWEB can't lay off its way out of this problem, and that he continues to worry about employee stress and morale. He added that the Board needs to have an honest dialogue about second source water and reminded them that personnel cuts can't be made in order to tackle that issue, and that there also needs to be a discussion regarding the implications of delaying second source water. He noted that his biggest red flags are the water utility issues.

Vice President Brown asked how the sale of generation assets would affect the budget recommendations. Ms. Bloom replied that the sale of generation assets would not impact the 2014 rate increase. General Manager Gray added that, as one example, the headquarters lease will be put into the 2014 budget scenario.

Commissioner Helgeson urged staff to continue with asset sales, and that he believes, in terms of direction, EWEB is better off than they were last year.

Commissioner Mital stated that he supports designing the budget around a 4% electric rate increase and a 3% water rate increase for 2014. He voiced his support to move ahead with second source water and said he likes the idea of breaking it out as a line item.

President Simpson echoed Commissioner Mital's comments, and said he believes it is high time to redesign EWEB's bill to include a line item breakdown. He offered his assistance with that process.

Commissioner Helgeson stated that he is open to a higher rate increase if necessary but that he wished staff had a better story to tell customers instead of that a rate increase will make EWEB reserves and financials look better. He also stated that he would like to do something that can be perceived as coming back the other direction, i.e., bringing back the conservation programs. He asked for clarification that staff's recommendation is for the rate increases is Option 1 for electric and Option 2 for water.

Commissioner Mital asked to revisit whether or not the Board is resolved to putting money toward second source water. General Manager Gray replied that he would like to bring that item and some others back to the Board for discussion. He noted that he would like further Board discussion of the 10 MGD solution for second source water and also the water emergency

trailers (i.e., purchasing one or two per year or if the Board wants to purchase them at a faster rate). He added that he strongly recommends both second source water and purchase of the water emergency trailer(s).

Commissioner Mital stated that he is prepared to move forward in that direction.

Staff then reviewed the next steps for the budget process:

- July thru September – budget development
- October 1 – 2nd financial workshop – LTFP update, draft budget presentation and public hearing
- November 5 – first public hearing on proposed budget and rates
- December 3 – final budget/rate public hearing and Board action

PUBLIC HEARING ON FINANCIAL PLANS

There was no public input.

CORRESPONDENCE AND BOARD AGENDAS

General Manager Gray asked if the Board would be interested in providing more information about the BPA rate increase passthrough, perhaps via a press release. The Commissioners said that they would.

Regarding the possible transfer of upriver service territory from EWEB to Lane Electric Co-op, General Manager Gray stated that staff has arrived at a potentially interesting transaction and that he is recommending a discussion regarding this, possibly at the September 17 upriver Board meeting, as Lane Electric Co-op is holding district meetings in late September/early October.

Commissioner Helgeson stated that even though staff might assume that customers are in support of this transfer, they may ask about rate increases or decreases, which utility serves which area, etc.

General Manager Gray agreed that it will be key to get customer support and input, and that there have been several minor transactions that have previously taken place between Emerald People's Utility District (EPUD) and Lane Electric Co-op. He added that Lane Electric Co-op General Manager Crinklaw suspects that his Board will react in the same way but, again, customer support and input will be key.

General Manager Gray reminded the Board of the electric vehicle event on Friday, July 26, at EWEB; the special Board session on Tuesday, July 23, at 6:00 p.m. at the Roosevelt Operations Center (ROC) regarding AMI; and the tour of Carmen-Smith on Tuesday, July 30.

General Manager Gray told that it may be a challenge to only have one Board meeting per month in the upcoming several months, and that special events may take precedence over Board meetings if the Board desires. He explained that he believes it make sense to focus on one issue if a special Board meeting is called, and that the new Board meeting format seems to be working very well.

President Simpson reminded the Board of the Grand Coulee peer recognition tour on Friday, July 26, and that Taryn Johnson, Executive Assistant to the Board and General Manager, is helping to coordinate a future tour of the work that is being done at the Hayden Bridge filtration plant water intake.

Vice President Brown stated that he is not sure that the downtown network plan item that is on the agenda for the September 17 upriver Board meeting respects upriver residents or will entice them to come to the meeting. He mentioned the possibility of a presentation by Gordon Grant of Oregon State University regarding the origin of the McKenzie River.

General Manager Gray replied that staff will be polling upriver residents about their interest in agenda items for the upriver meeting and that any normal Board (non-upriver-related) business will be conducted at the end of that meeting.

Regarding the recent peer utility rate comparison that the Board received, Commissioner Mital noted that EWEB's rates are now essentially the highest of the Northwest publicly owned utilities, and that the only rates that are higher than EWEB's are those of investor-owned utilities. He reiterated that he appreciates the rate work that has been done but that he hopes that staff is keeping the super-long-term in mind, i.e., 30-40 years from now.

President Simpson adjourned the Regular Session at 9:05 p.m.

Assistant Secretary

President