

**EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
January 7, 2025
5:30 p.m.**

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Others Present: Frank Lawson, EWEB General Manager; Deborah Hart, Assistant General Manager/Chief Financial Officer; Katie LaSala, Eugene City Recorder

REGULAR SESSION

Call to Order [00:00:00]

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

Agenda Check [00:00:24]

There were no changes to the agenda.

Oath of Office for Commissioners Barofsky, Carlson, and Morris [00:00:35]

Eugene City Recorder Katie LaSala conducted an official Oath of Office inducting the following Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) Commissioners: John Barofsky, Sonya Carlson, and Tim Morris.

New Commissioner Tim Morris Self-Introduction [00:03:22]

Tim Morris introduced himself as the new EWEB Commissioner for Wards 1 and 8. He said he is grateful for being elected to serve on the EWEB Board of Commissioners and added that although he cannot fill former Commissioner McRae's shoes, he hopes to set his own example.

Items from Board Members and General Manager [00:05:07]

Commissioner Brown brought attention to the issue of lengthy board meetings. He offered a suggestion: rather than safety protocols being read aloud at the start of the meeting, staff may consider providing attendees with a written copy.

Commissioner Carlson spoke about being involved in the River Road water maintenance shutdown. She noted that staff did a great job and mentioned that she offered feedback for improvement.

Commissioner Morris thanked EWEB staff for their excellence, passion, and dedication.

President Barofsky had the opportunity to visit College Hill. He reported that the feedback received from residents has been positive.

Mr. Lawson announced that "Run to Stay Warm" raised more than \$6,000 for the EWEB Customer Care Program. Regarding Commissioner Carlson's feedback about the maintenance

shutdown, he said they have begun to implement her suggestions, including an updated door hanger with tips and resources.

Correspondence [00:11:25]

President Barofsky reflected on the 2025 Water System Master Plan update. The ten-year master plan, focusing on water reliability, quality, and affordability, is expected to be completed in December 2025. President Barofsky suggested reviewing the previous ten-year 2015 Water System Master Plan with an emphasis on what was achieved and what was not achieved.

Mr. Lawson responded affirmatively, stating that an upcoming EWEB Board of Commissioners meeting does include an agenda item for reviewing the full Water System Master Planning process.

Commissioner Brown mentioned that Karen Kelley is speaking on the topic of the 2025 Water Master Plan to the City Club of Eugene at noon on Friday, January 10, 2025, at the WOW Hall.

Commissioner Carlson noted that tonight's meeting presents an opportunity to make changes to the General Manager evaluation process.

Public Comment [00:33:55]

There was no public comment.

BOARD ACTION AND GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS

Approval of Consent Calendar – A, Minutes and Routine Contracts [00:15:33]

MINUTES

1. December 3, 2024 Regular Session

CONTRACTS

2. FEI Testing & Inspection – for Construction Inspection Services. \$200,000 (over 5 years) based on Formal Request for Proposals.
3. Osmose Utilities Services, Inc. – for Pole Inspection, Test, & Treat, and NESC and Joint Use Inspections. \$1,000,000 (over 5 years) based on Formal Request for Proposals.

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

Approval of Consent Calendar – B, Nonroutine Contracts and Other Consent Items [00:15:57]

RADIFICATION OF BOARD APPOINTED CONSULTANTS

4. Ratification of Board Appointed Consultants – General Counsel – Luvaas Cobb (Eric DeFreest Primary Contact)

RESOLUTIONS

5. Resolution No. 2502 – Annual Appointment of Supplemental Retirement Plan Committee

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

Items Removed from Consent Calendar [00:16:14)

There were none.

Mr. Lawson explained an update to official meeting protocol. Regarding votes relative to action, the facilitator must identify (i.e. voice) the votes as either unanimous, or x number in favor/opposed; and must identify who was in favor/opposed.

2025 Election of Officers [00:16:20]

MOTION: Commissioner Brown moved to appoint John Barofsky as EWEB Board of Commissioners President and Mindy Schlossberg as Vice President. **The motion passed unanimously, 5:0; President Barofsky, Vice President Schlossberg, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Brown, and Commissioner Morris all voting in favor.**

2025 Appointment of Board Liaison Assignments & Committees [00:18:30]

MOTION: Commissioner Brown moved to appoint Commissioner Carlson as primary and Commissioner Morris as alternate EWEB representatives for Lane Council of Governments (LCOG). **The motion passed unanimously, 5:0; President Barofsky, Vice President Schlossberg, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Brown, and Commissioner Morris all voting in favor.**

MOTION: Commissioner Brown moved to appoint President Barofsky as primary EWEB representative for McKenzie Watershed Council. **The motion passed unanimously, 5:0; President Barofsky, Vice President Schlossberg, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Brown, and Commissioner Morris all voting in favor.**

President Barofsky recommended EWEB staff continue to represent EWEB on the McKenzie Watershed Alliance Executive Board. There was no objection from other Commissioners.

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to appoint Commissioner Brown as primary and President Barofsky as alternate EWEB representatives for Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB). **The motion passed unanimously, 5:0; President Barofsky, Vice President Schlossberg, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Brown, and Commissioner Morris all voting in favor.**

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to appoint Vice President Schlossberg as primary EWEB representative for Springfield Utility Board. **The motion passed unanimously, 5:0; President Barofsky, Vice President Schlossberg, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Brown, and Commissioner Morris all voting in favor.**

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to appoint Commissioner Brown as primary EWEB representative for Lane Electric Cooperative. **The motion passed unanimously, 5:0; President Barofsky, Vice President Schlossberg, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Brown, and Commissioner Morris all voting in favor.**

President Barofsky noted that he and Vice President Schlossberg would be the liaisons for the City of Eugene, and would aim to meet with them quarterly.

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to appoint Commissioner Brown as primary and Commissioner Morris as alternate EWEB representatives for the City of Springfield. **The motion passed unanimously, 5:0; President Barofsky, Vice President Schlossberg, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Brown, and Commissioner Morris all voting in favor.**

Proposed 2025 Strategic Goals/Organizational Performance Measures (00:34:25]

Mr. Lawson introduced Proposed 2025 Strategic Goals/Organizational Performance Measures via PowerPoint presentation. He noted that review of the proposal is required in Board Policy BL4. He referenced a chart detailing the annual organization goal-setting cycle. The current phase involves approving the annual goals.

He highlighted the following three business priorities:

1. Maintain/Improve Business Operations
2. Optimize Energy Delivery
3. Improve Resiliency

He highlighted the following seven organizational goals:

1. Operational Efficiency and Effectiveness
2. Succession Planning/Dynamic Workforce Model (hybrid work)
3. Energy Supply Contract(s)/Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)
4. EWEB Customer Care/Pre-Pay Program
5. Rate Design Preparation (Fixed/Variable Alignment & Residential Demand)
6. Asset Management Planning
7. Environmental Policy Alignment (SD2 Environmental, SD15 Climate Change)

He highlighted the following seven As-Authored Goals:

1. Maintain or improve ongoing operational efficiency and effectiveness
2. Develop and commence succession plans for leadership and vulnerable single-depth positions, and review and refine policies and practices associated with Dynamic Workforce Model

3. Negotiate and execute energy supply contract(s) with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and others as appropriate
4. Improve the impact and reach of EWEB Customer Care, and leverage EWEB's new customer and financial information systems to launch a Pre-Pay Program by the end of 3rd quarter, in support of SD23 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy and rate re-design
5. Consistent with EWEB's initiative to re-design rates, prepare to implement significant fixed/variable cost adjustments and residential demand charges
6. Formalize and publish Operational Asset Management Plans for at least 3 of 5 asset groups (electric, water, generation, information systems, fleet/facilities)
7. Improve the effectiveness of EWEB's environmental and climate change policies in response to external standards and practices and EWEB's progress, status, and outlook

Commissioner Carlson reflected that while she is generally supportive of the proposed goals, she recommends a goal for helping with the disconnect between renters and owners relating to efficiency improvements.

President Barofsky, Vice President Schlossberg, and Commissioner Brown all voiced support of Commissioner Carlson's suggestion.

Commissioner Morris added that the Board has previously stated their intent to reach out to lower income communities. He also voiced agreement with Commissioner Carlson's suggestion.

There was discussion about whether to incorporate the goal into the existing proposed goals or create a brand-new goal to support the Board's intent. There was consensus to create a new goal.

Mr. Lawson stated that regarding subsidized energy efficiency, that is not necessarily a cost saving measure. He recommended that if the Board wants to establish a goal around paying a landlord to do things they might not normally do, it comes at a rate cost. He said there is a tradeoff between what [EWEB] is looking to do for one group versus another group. He added that he is unsure if the Board fully understands the starting point. He cited the upcoming Demand Site Potential Assessments Study for further understanding of the topic.

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to adopt the 2025 Strategic Goals as presented and direct staff to bring back a goal related to rental/owner disconnect and efficiencies. **The motion passed unanimously, 5:0; President Barofsky, Vice President Schlossberg, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Brown, and Commissioner Morris all voting in favor.**

General Manager's 2025 Performance Evaluation Criteria [01:09:33]

Mr. Lawson introduced the General Manager's Performance Evaluation Criteria—an opportunity for the Board to provide direction or expectation-setting for the EWEB General Manager.

Mr. Lawson reflected that the current process largely works well for him.

President Barofsky invited Commissioners to provide feedback relating to performance evaluation criteria.

There was none.

Future Board Agendas [01:17:22]

Mr. Lawson reported that the 2015 Water Master Plan review will occur in June 2025.

Mr. Lawson voiced his intent to schedule a discussion with the Board President and Vice President to review the annual goals alongside the Board agenda report.

Commissioner Brown highlighted that the proposed Spring agenda items are recurring, therefore if something came up, there is no room for discussion. He requested attention regarding the issue.

Mr. Lawson responded affirmatively. He added that there are placeholders for potential work sessions.

Commissioner Morris suggested a future board agenda item related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) policies review and implementation, specifically regarding metrics.

President Barofsky described the process for adding items to the agenda: a commissioner may propose a topic; to move forward, the topic must receive head nods from three commissioners.

Board Wrap Up [01:25:12]

Commissioner Brown mentioned that Lane Electric Cooperative raised their rates 8% and raised their basic charge to \$49/per month. As a result, their basic charge is now twice that of EWEB's. He asked for consideration regarding rate design.

Adjourn [01:30:50]

President Barofsky adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Recorded by Terah Van Dusen, LCOG

Assistant Secretary

President