

**EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD**  
**WORK SESSION**  
**March 18, 2025**  
**5:00 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; Brian Booth, Chief Energy Resource Officer; Ben Ulrich, Lead Energy Resource Analyst; and Juan Serpa Muñoz, Business Line Manager; Anna Wade, Customer Solutions Manager AIC

**WORK SESSION**

**Call to Order [00:00:00]**

Vice President Mindy Schlossberg called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Organizational Goal #3 – Initial Results: Energy Resource Study and Demand Side Potential Assessment [00:00:38]**

Chief Energy Resource Officer Brian Booth, Lead Energy Resource Analyst Ben Ulrich, and Business Line Manager Juan Serpa Muñoz, provided information about Organizational Goal #3 – Initial Results: Energy Resource Study and Demand Side Potential Assessment, including Phase 1 Draft Report and Results.

Mr. Ulrich explained that in 2023, the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) completed an Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) which included an action item to conduct a study of the potential for conservation and demand response. In 2024, Lighthouse Energy Consulting was hired to conduct demand side studies. Mr. Ulrich referenced draft copies of the conservation potential assessment report and the demand response potential assessment, which was provided in the meeting packet.

Mr. Ulrich elaborated on cost effectiveness, specifically focusing on whether it makes financial sense for EWEB to invest in conservation when compared with buying new wind, solar, or batteries. He referenced a chart titled Cumulative Annual Energy Savings Potential, summarizing that the potential is roughly double EWEB's current measures. He provided a chart titled Estimate of Annual Spending for Under \$45/MWh and a chart detailing Cumulative Peak Savings Potential.

Mr. Serpa Muñoz provided information related to achievable energy and capacity savings potential using an intentional approach to cost-effective energy conservation; specifically focusing on residential sector savings, commercial sector savings, and industrial/utility sector savings.

Mr. Ulrich summarized a chart titled Demand Response and Time of Use Potential, including a key finding that there are about 50 megawatts of peak saving potential through demand

response programs. He added that there is promising demand side potential to offset load growth.

Mr. Booth, Mr. Ulrich, and Mr. Serpa Muñoz invited questions from the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Brown asked for more information about EWEB's duct sealing program.

Mr. Serpa Muñoz confirmed that EWEB has a duct sealing program, but participation is low.

Regarding demand response and time of use potential, Mr. Brown suggested incentivizing customers like the University of Oregon, City of Eugene, and Lane County to adjust their hours of operation.

President Barofsky brought attention to a discrepancy between EWEB's administrative costs and the industry standard. He also highlighted the stark contrast between the achievable winter demand response potential between residential and commercial. He cautioned against penalizing commercial customers.

Mr. Lawson responded that EWEB's administrative costs are higher because EWEB does energy efficiency conservation not just for return on investment purposes. He added that there is opportunity on the commercial/industrial side, but it is application specific.

Commissioner Carlson asked if some of EWEB's commercial lighting incentives are going away.

Mr. Serpa Muñoz confirmed that Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is sunsetting some measures, which will likely affect reimbursement. He mentioned the use of a cost effectiveness calculator for further evaluation.

Commissioner Carlson inquired about the level of control customers have over residential conservation measures.

Mr. Booth responded that ultimately customers have a high level of control regarding residential conservation measures.

Mr. Lawson agreed.

Vice President Schlossberg asked how soon EWEB can start the programs.

Mr. Ulrich emphasized that the programs are part of EWEB's long-term vision. He said they will need to hold discussions about implementation.

Vice President Schlossberg suggested possibly conducting a demand response pilot with willing customers.

Mr. Serpa Muñoz responded that EWEB has conducted demand response pilots previously, specifically the use of heat pump water heaters, and encountered some challenges. He

recommended more automation in future pilots. He said they can present past pilot results to inform the process.

**Adjourn [01:01:28]**

Vice President Schlossberg adjourned the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

*Recorded by Terah Van Dusen, LCOG*

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Assistant Secretary

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President