

WEST SLOPE WATER DISTRICT
Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, July 17, 2024
Meeting Summary

CALL TO ORDER

Present: Commissioners Chris Eppler, Susan Meamber, and Andy Smith

Management Staff: Michael Grimm, General Manager; Wendy Irwin, Finance Manager

Absent: Chair Ramesh Krishnamurthy and Commissioner Paul Schuler

1.0 – CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Smith called to order the meeting of the West Slope Water District Board of Commissioners at 5:21 P.M., Wednesday, July 17, 2024. The meeting was held as a hybrid meeting both in person at the District office and through Zoom virtual meeting technology. The public was made aware of the meeting through the District’s website (the meeting agenda and Zoom meeting link were posted on the website).

2.0 - PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

The District had not received any public comments regarding agenda items or other issues for the Board to consider.

3.0 – CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Eppler made a motion to accept the entire Consent Agenda Items 3.1 through 3.8. Commissioner Meamber seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously (3-0).

4.0 – DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

4.1 – General Manager’s Report: Mr. Grimm highlighted some key issues from the General Manager’s report:

Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy Project: The District is reviewing the construction contractor’s final pay application for accuracy. The pay application includes nearly \$600,000 worth of change orders which the District believes are erroneous and impermissible.

Revised Lead & Copper Rule – Customer Service Line (CSL) Inventory: 120Water has all of the District’s 1150 field verified customer-side service line material inventory. The next step will be for 120Water to process that data and respond with any additional field verification that needs to be done to raise the confidence level on the CSL Inventory using the 120Water algorithm to regulatory standards. The District believes an additional 350 or so field verifications will need to be conducted at specific customer sites as dictated by 120Water. The District anticipates

starting this work in early August at the latest and turning the additional field verification data back to 120Water before the end of August.

Portland Water Bureau Leadership: Mr. Grimm shared with the Board that Gabe Solmer was asked to leave the Bureau as the Director, and the Interim Director is Edward Campbell (formerly the Deputy Administer). Mr. Grimm (along with the Public Works Director from the City of Tualatin) sat down virtually with the Mayor's Chief of Staff Bobby Lee to ask 5 questions to the Mayor regarding the Water Bureau's relationship with its wholesale customers:

- What is the new strategic direction of the Water Bureau (will the change of leadership bring about a change in scope and direction)?
- What is the status of the capital projects jointly funded by Portland wholesale customers and Portland retail customers?
- What is the status of the newly signed wholesale water sales agreement?
- Will the Bureau continue to be a regional collaborative water utility partner?
- What is the status of the Bureau's commitment to the Regional Water Providers Consortium?

The responses from the Mayor's COS and others assured us that the commitments and agreements already in place remain in place for the Bureau, and the City is not looking to change the strategic trajectory of the Water Bureau. A new Director will be appointed sometime in early 2025 after the new City government has started to function.

Bull Run Water Supply: Drawdown in the watershed began June 29. Current system-wide demand for Portland (including all wholesale customers is currently 130-140 MGD. By comparison, West Slope's demand accounts for 2.1 – 2.4 MGD of that total. The Columbia Southshore Wellfield test run will occur in early August for about 3 weeks.

4.2 – Finance Manager's Report: Ms. Irwin shared she has started working on the District's audit with the new auditing firm REDW (Grove Mueller Swank was acquired by REDW). Ms. Irwin has been working with Josiah Close with HDR on the July 30 Board work session "Water Rate 101" presentation. The work session will be held during the day and will include an overview of the rate design process and what rate design components and elements are the most appropriate for the District's residential, multi-family, and commercial customers.

4.3 – Work Session with HDR Finance Staff – "Water Rate 101": Ms. Irwin directed the Board to review the draft Powerpoint presentation included in the Board packet and asked if any commissioner had questions about the schedule or the content of the water rate design work. The consensus of the Board was the draft presentation gave them sufficient background for the work session on July 30.

5.0 – COMMISSIONERS COMMUNICATIONS

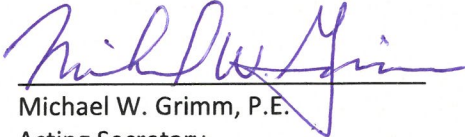
There were no other meetings attended by any of the District's commissioners. Commissioner Meamber stated she had talked with both Jennifer Schoorl with HR Answers, Inc. and Judy Clarke with Team HR, LLC. The Board was interested getting their insight into creating performance metrics that can be used for determining merit compensation as part of the General Manager's performance assessment. Commissioner Meamber suggested HR Answers could talk with the Board at the August meeting and Team HR at the September meeting. The goal for the Board is to develop a "one-page" guide for incremental tasks related to the 5-6 General Manager strategic goals to merit pay increases for the General Manager. The consensus of the Board was they thought the meeting went well.

6.0 – ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Meamber made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Eppler seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously (3-0). Acting Chair Smith adjourned the July 17, 2024 Board of Commissioners regular meeting at 6:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved:



Michael W. Grimm, P.E.
Acting Secretary

