

SOUTH FORK WATER BOARD
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
June 26, 2019

Board Members Present: Russ Axelrod, West Linn Mayor, Vice Chair
Rocky Smith, Oregon City Commissioner
Bill Reylea, West Linn Councilor
Frank O'Donnell, Oregon City Commissioner
Richard Sakelik, West Linn Councilor

Board Members Excused: Dan Holladay, Oregon City Mayor, Chair

Staff Present: John Collins, SFWB General Manager
Christopher Crean, SFWB Legal Counsel
Wyatt Parno, OC/SFWB Finance Director
Kim Brown, Technical Writer, SFWB

Others Present: Kim Swan, Clackamas River Water Providers
Alice Richmond, West Linn Resident

General Board Meeting

(1) **Call to Order**

Vice Chair Axelrod called the meeting of the South Fork Water Board to order at 6:03 pm.

(2) **Public Comments**

There were none.

(3) **Consent Agenda**

(A) Approval of the Minutes of the May 22, 2019 Board Meeting.

Board Member Sakelik moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Board Member O'Donnell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(4) **Clackamas River Water Providers Presentation – Kim Swan**

John Collins, General Manager, introduced Kim Swan, who started working at SFWB in 2001 as a resource manager and as Staff had volunteered for Clackamas River Water Providers (CRWP), which also represents several other water districts. The CRWP recently received a national award from the American Water Board Association as a result of Ms. Swan's efforts regarding resource protection within the watershed.

Kim Swan, Resource Manager, CRWP, explained that CRWP worked with all the cities and water districts that get water from the Clackamas River and provided a forum to look at ways to coordinate efforts and communicate as a basin, and the basin members determined a new messaging strategy was necessary. She emphasized this was not a CRWP message, but rather a basin message, which CRWP was simply implementing and delivering. She presented the Clackamas River Summer Conservation Messaging via PowerPoint, noting that the new

Fish on the Run, Irrigation Done strategy was necessary because once issued, the water permit extensions would include two fish flow conditions for the Clackamas River. She also described how the messaging had been adjusted according to feedback provided by CRWP members.

Board Member Relyea asked if something upstream or in the watershed was impeding the flow of the Clackamas River. **Ms. Swan** explained the watershed was unique in that although there were dams in the basin, rain and snow were the only water sources received. The watershed is designated as wild and scenic.

Alice Richmond asked how water consumption could decrease when kids return to school in the fall. **Ms. Swan** explained that as kids return to school and extracurricular activities, parents spend less time irrigating their yards or gardens. Every year water usage drops after Labor Day.

General Manager Collins agreed to provide Ms. Richmond with graphics or materials showing the reduced water usage. He noted CRWP was asking rather than mandating people to be good stewards of their resources, which was a message every water provider could share.

General Manager Collins asked how to target the audience using means other than the internet. **Ms. Swan** replied CRWP offices would have printed materials, CRWP could reach out to the Clackamas Review, and information could be provided at local events, like farmers' markets and other events Public Outreach Coordinator, Christine Hollenbeck would be attending this summer. CRWP hoped all its members would add the graphics and a link to CRWP's main webpage with all the resources to their own websites. She explained that the Fish on the Run, Irrigation Done website was intended to be public only part of the year to avoid confusion about when water use changes were needed, which was at the end of summer. CRWP would be able to determine what efforts were working best.

General Manager Collins suggested that in the off season, the website show the number of pledges, inform about the progress made, and request that visitors check the website again in the fall. He emphasized that these conservation measures were critical for generations to come. When justifying the next round of water right extensions, CRWP would be able to show its efforts and progress, as well as the recognition it had received as leaders in the nation. It was important to stay ahead of the curve and in a superior position when it comes to water rights. Water utilities were addressing their ability to do their part to ensure adequate water flow in the river during September and October, which would bode well for South Fork in the future.

Ms. Swan noted significantly changing weather patterns in the basin, like in 2015 when there was no rainfall in the summer and fall, would require changing the entire messaging strategy to request water use reduction all summer rather than just the end of summer.

Vice Chair Axelrod noted the message of overall water conservation was good for all summer, but they needed to ease into that. **Ms. Swan** agreed that was CRWP's goal, adding they received great feedback after sending the new strategy out to stakeholders.

General Manager Collins asked how the small amount of stored water at Timothy Lake was being utilized. **Ms. Swan** explained the only water storage in the entire system was in

Timothy Lake. A stored water agreement allowed CRWP to make up to two calls requesting the release of water. With the FERC license that was signed in 2011, PGE now had very restricted bookends regarding the amount of water that could be released from Timothy Lake and how quickly it could be done. During the summer, PGE was very constrained by that license, but had more flexibility in the fall. In 2015, the lake never fully filled, and water would not have been released even if requests were made.

General Manager Collins stated the bottom line was that South Fork had an opportunity if flow was available from Timothy Lake. He noted that CRWP also met with Oregon Department Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to determine water availability, the amount available and how it should be released.

Board Member Reylea noted there was a lot from the presentation that could be taken to the sustainability group. **Ms. Swan** stated she would be happy to talk to the sustainability group.

Vice Chair Axelrod believed there was a lot of sensitivity in the community for environmental stewardship, particularly with increased awareness about climate change. The community was ripe for awareness on the subject, so he would not be afraid of messaging it out there. **Ms. Swan** noted they had been careful not to use the term climate change in their messaging at this point.

Ms. Richmond asked how to get connected with the national weather service. She noted it was very dry, and it was fire season from the Willamette River Valley to Eastern Oregon. If there was a fire danger alert, how much water could they take to diminish the concern for fires. She understood it was a big question, but wildfires were getting worse.

Ms. Swan noted CWRP conducts annual watershed tours, which would be in the upper watershed this year, and the Board was always invited. With regard to wildfire concerns, she explained that for the past two years, she had been working with Portland State University (PSU) to look at a climate resiliency study for the Clackamas River, the only source of water for CRWP members, and what the results would be without snow pack. The first year, the study looked at the baseline, how the watershed functioned, snow and precipitation levels and the hydrology. This year, the study looked at climate impacts, including water quality and quantity, fire, and climate models of a downscale for the basin. Another group was working with stakeholders around the meaning of climate change and what people in the basin were doing. A climate workshop was held in May, and she would provide the link to General Manager Collins to pass onto the Board. PSU was in the process of writing the final report, so it would not be available until later in the summer. PSU had created a really nice website with all the information regarding climate change in the Clackamas River.

Vice Chair Axelrod suggested coordinating with Alicia Shroyer, West Linn's Community Relations Coordinator, as well as Oregon City's outreach coordinator, to get the message out using the Cities' newsletters and websites. He also suggested getting an article in the Pamplin community newspapers.

Ms. Swan confirmed that had been discussed and noted implementation strategies would be discussed at the next CRWP meeting in August.

- (5) **Executive Session –Adjourn regular meeting and convene Executive Session if needed.**
The June 26, 2019 regular meeting was recessed at 6:42 pm to convene the Executive Session.

- a. To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(f).
- b. To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(h).
- c. To review and evaluate, pursuant to standards, criteria, and policy directive adopted by the South Fork Water Board, the employment related performance of the General Manager pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(i).

(6) **Reconvene Regular Meeting and Take Action Necessary as Determined in Executive Session.**

Vice Chair Axelrod reconvened the regular meeting at 7:19 pm.

Board Member O'Donnell moved to adjust the General Manager's salary by an annual 2.9 percent Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) increase and then add a performance bonus of 5 percent, effective July 1, 2019. The motion was seconded by Board Member Smith and passed unanimously.

General Manager Collins thanked everyone for their kind comments, as well as Mayor Holladay for his wonderful email.

(7) **Business from the Manager**

- 1) ACE Conference/Vice Chair Axelrod appointed to AWWA National Committee
John Collins, General Manager, stated he attended the annual ACE Conference and announced that Mayor Axelrod was appointed to a national Technical and Science Committee for Climate, which was a great honor, adding that it spoke volumes for South Fork.

Wyatt Parno, OC/SFWB Finance Director, expressed appreciation for being able to attend the ACE conference, as well as the mentoring he received from General Manager Collins and Mayor Axelrod. The finance information was familiar, but good. He also attended sessions on cyanotoxins and learned about PVC pipes from Asia that were ahead of the curve in addressing earthquake resiliency.

Vice Chair Axelrod stated he attended technical sessions regarding resiliency; emergency planning; the lack of money for infrastructure, particularly for smaller water systems; and algae problems tied in with climate change. He also attended some SCADA and cyber security seminars, which was good timing since SFWB was redoing its SCADA. South Fork's representatives also made connections with those who were nationally involved in SCADA systems as well as with consultants regarding the upcoming RFP work and were expecting feedback. He also attended a seminar on source water protection, which was getting more attention nationally. He described how he was invited to join the AWWA National Committee after providing feedback at several technical seminars, adding he was already getting involved by co-writing a paper with Rebecca Giessen and other experts on the regional Bloom Doom algae problem. He hoped the paper would get South Fork's name out there.

Board Member Sakelik noted when he attended the ACE Conference in Las Vegas last year, there were demonstrations of pipes bending and flexing with hillsides with zero failures during so many earthquakes.

Vice Chair Axelrod noted the event was smaller compared to previous years, with less science and tech, possibly due to smaller budgets. **General Manager Collins** noted it was very expensive for vendors to attend the ACE Conference.

2) Location of second emergency water treatment trailer

John Collins, General Manager, reported he had met with Matt Kaatz, West Linn's Water Operations Supervisor, who was excited that the pre-existing contracts with the City of Portland or the State would be used to place an order for a second emergency water treatment for West Linn, similar to the first. Matt had stated the new trailer could be stored and displayed at the Bolton Reservoir, which had adequate space.

Board Member Sakelik suggested having a sign to educate people about the trailer's purpose.

3) ShakeAlert Update

John Collins, General Manager, noted that early last year, the Board gave permission for him to work with RH2 Engineering on the ShakeAlert System, which was a device connected to the Northwest Seismic Network, the PNSN, and the USGS using probes that detect earthquakes. He noted the language issues with the USGS had been resolved. He described the progress that had been made regarding the system and how it would function. Moving forward, South Fork's future planning would include having valves that would automatically shut reservoirs to 80 percent, and using technology for infrastructure improvements to preserve the water system in the event of an earthquake. He addressed questions from the Board, noting South Fork would have the basic interface system, which would be tied in with alarm lighting at the plant and some controls.

Vice Chair Axelrod understood shakes at certain depths would trigger the system, which would dictate the response.

Board Member Reylea said the systems were completely tunable to different levels depending on need, and noted the hospital was tied into the same system.

(8) **Business from the Board**

There was none.

(9) **Adjournment**

Vice Chair Axelrod adjourned the regular meeting of the SFWB at 7:38 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

By Paula Pinyerd, ABC Transcription Services, Inc.
for John Collins, SFWB General Manager