

SOUTH FORK WATER BOARD
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
May 25, 2022

Board Members Present: Jules Walters, West Linn Mayor, Chair
Denyse McGriff, Oregon City Commission President, Vice Chair
Rocky Smith, Oregon City Commissioner
Bill Relyea, West Linn Councilor
Frank O'Donnell, Oregon City Commissioner
Rory Bialostosky, West Linn Councilor

Board Members Excused: None

Staff Present: Wyatt Parno, CEO
Christopher Crean, SFWB Legal Counsel

Others Present: Alice Richmond, SFWB Citizens Advisory Board
William Becker, SFWB Citizens Advisory Board

General Board Meeting

(1) **Call to Order**

Chair Walters called the meeting of the South Fork Water Board to order at 7:07 pm.

(2) **Roll Call**

(3) **Public Comments**

Alice Richmond, SFWB Citizens Advisory Board, stated she knew that CEO Parno is very focused on prevention of cyber and other types of attacks, and she wanted to know more about security in the City of Oregon City and the City of West Linn to give some peace of mind to the customers. She discussed that citizens should be aware that water is taken care of from the reservoir to the intake to the tap in their kitchens. She recommended that West Linn and Oregon City periodically notify the newspapers that we are continuously doing all the necessary programs and procedures for clean water. Oregon water and especially South Fork water is the best tasting water. She tells as many people as she can, but she does not know everything, and the information should be shared.

Wyatt Parno, CEO, stated that cyber security was addressed in SFWB's policies, as well as within the firewalls and operating systems, which were in good shape. He was also familiar with Oregon City's system because SFWB interfaces with them regularly. Additionally, West Linn is upgrading their Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. Lastly, the federal government has strong guidelines regulating how the operating systems are set up. He agreed that all three agencies need to be diligent about security.

(4) **Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of the Minutes of the February 23, 2022, Board Meeting.

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

(5) **Election of Vice Chair for the Remainder of 2022**

Wyatt Parno, CEO, explained that the intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between Oregon City and West Linn required the Chair and Vice Chair to rotate annually between the two cities. With transition on the Oregon City Commission, the Vice Chair position needed to be filled.

Board Member Smith nominated Denyse McGriff as SFWB Vice Chair for the remainder of 2022. Board Member Relyea seconded the nomination.

Board Member Bialostosky welcomed Board Member McGriff to SFWB.

Board Member McGriff was elected as SFWB Vice Chair for the remainder of 2022 by a 5 to 0 to 1 vote with Vice Chair McGriff abstaining.

(6) **Business from the CEO**

- 1) Emergency Water Treatment Trailer Training

Wyatt Parno, CEO, announced that the first joint training on the trailers had been scheduled for June 7th. Oregon City, West Linn, and SFWB staff will be trained by the manufacturer. One trailer was purchased in 2019 with a Homeland Security grant. The second trailer was purchased in 2020 with Capital funds. Over the last two years, both trailers were outfitted. To provide coverage on both sides of the river, one trailer is currently stationed in West Linn at the Bolton Reservoir, and the other is stationed in Oregon City at the plant. The filters are expensive to replace, so Staff has been hesitant to use the trailers. However, it is important to make sure teams in both cities are ready should an event occur. He spoke with trainers about training without using the most expensive filters and learned that for testing purposes, the training could be done without filters. After the training, he planned to work closely with both cities to outline plans and redundancies, decide where the trailers would be located, -identify alternate routes, decide who would operate the trailers, and address other logistics for emergency response.

Chair Walters said she was glad one trailer was at Bolton Reservoir because that is the most earthquake resistant reservoir on that side of the river.

- 2) Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO) Tabletop Exercise

Wyatt Parno, CEO, said SFWB had been working with RDPO to coordinate how drinking water would be provided in the area if there is a major catastrophe. The tabletop exercise held in March assumed a Cascadia Subduction Zone event. After an earthquake, communities would be separated from each other by the collapse of

transportation infrastructure. The framework provides for emergency response islands. West Linn, Lake Oswego, and the River Grove Water District are on one island. Oregon City, Clackamas River Water and South Fork are on a separate island. That is the main reason for having two emergency water trailers. During the tabletop exercise, Mr. Parno worked closely with the Public Works Director of Oregon City and Clackamas River Water staff to allocate water resources, access water stored in the Mountain View Reservoir, and determine how to use the trailers for daily water allocation to residents. The tabletop exercise was a good starting point and plans continued to be developed between the three agencies. He had been working on other logistics, such as identifying alternate routes to access the plant and the emergency water treatment trailers, as well as State requirements for water quality, which he understood would be relaxed slightly during an emergency event. Nonetheless, South Fork staff are designing water quality testing options for when the event happens. Currently, the plan is to have a team in each city, and SFWB was cooperating on those issues.

Vice Chair McGriff suggested a boat could be commandeered to get back and forth in an emergency.

CEO Parno agreed that was a good point, although it might be difficult to secure a boat during a disaster and having operating teams in each city is a good approach.

Chair Walters noted the Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue (TVF&R) water rescue team was housed at the fire station on the Willamette, so hopefully they might be able to provide a boat.

3) Chemical Feed Building Update

Wyatt Parno, CEO, provided an update that the land use application was deemed complete in April by the City of Oregon City. Final approval would occur in June and then the application would be submitted for the city's engineering review. After the review, bids could be collected. He would have the construction management team share the design drawings with the Board at the July meeting. He confirmed the application was for a site plan and design review, noting the Master Plan was approved and the project was operating under the 2010 Code thanks to the work the Board and former CEO Collins did years ago.

4) Thimble Creek Service Area in Oregon City

Wyatt Parno, CEO, stated that he toured the Thimble Creek Area with Board Members O'Donnell and Smith in April. The tour focused on the potential residential development of the Oregon City Golf Course. Oregon City is working on an agreement with Clackamas River Water (CRW) to serve the area until the City builds the infrastructure to supply at the necessary elevation. Currently, South Fork water would travel through CRW's pipes to serve the area because they would not likely be able to provide water from their sources for another five years or so. SFWB is in a good position in terms of its water rights. The tour also included a review of areas where the City partners with CRW to serve Oregon City customers and the distribution systems of Oregon City's infrastructure.

CEO Parno and Attorney Crean reviewed a draft of the agreement to ensure that SFWB's water rights were protected, and they felt good about that. The Board just needs to be thoughtful about the water rights South Fork had worked so hard to protect, and also the collection of revenues and system development charges (SDCs) from customers, which funds the Capital Plan and helped protect SFWB's water rights. He clarified the next step for the agreement was for CRW to respond to the draft agreement sent by Oregon City. CRW had said they have a lot on their plate and were reviewing the agreement.

5) AWWA ACE 2022 in San Antonio, Texas, June 12-15, 2022

Wyatt Parno, CEO, stated four Board Members had been registered to attend the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Annual Conference and Exposition. He appreciated the Board's support in sending a delegation to the Conference, adding he was proud to have an engaged Board of Directors.

6) Summer Preparation and Staffing Changes

Wyatt Parno, CEO, announced that two new operators had been hired, Sean Cates and Trevor Cook. Morale was high and Staff was ready for the summer, South Fork's high-volume season. One more rebuild would be done on the hypochlorite system, but basins had been cleaned, lagoons sealed, louvers at the pump stations adjusted, and so forth. This year, staff would document a lot more than it had previously and would develop calendars and standard operating procedures. The recent turnover in Staff resulted in the loss of a big knowledge base. Former employees knew what needed to be done, and that needed to be documented so information could be shared.

He also noted that he and Chair Walters participated in a call with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through the Regional Water Providers Consortium to understand summer weather and stream flow forecasts. Last year, the record high temperatures and very low river flows were not ideal for providing water. This year, the area had record rainfall in April and May, which helped moisturize the soil, conserve snowpacks, and fill the Timothy Lake Reservoir that the basin plants use sometimes when the Clackamas River gets low. The forecast is for a milder summer as well.

Board Member O'Donnell asked if Staff had any concerns about the procurement or inventory of critical chemicals needed to treat South Fork's water?

CEO Parno responded Staff is very proactive in ordering supplies and materials. In critical areas, supplies were being doubled. For certain materials, Staff was figuring out lead times for redundancy on the new system. Though SFWB makes its chlorine on site, a backup supply of chlorine has also been purchased. Ensuring the plant had all the needed supplies was part of South Fork's quality control process.

Board Member Relyea thanked CEO Parno for providing an update on the watershed, noting he had been tracking the impact of the Breitenbush fires along the Clackamas River. Highway 224 from Estecada to Ripplebrook was just recently opened, and he had traveled that route several times over the past few weeks to evaluate the tree structure that provides the shade for South Fork's watershed and maintains waterflow into the Clackamas River. Unfortunately, most of the tree structure and shade was completely gone, but it was good to see the streams still running. The relationship with PGE and the flow of water from Timothy Lake would be vital in the summer months. He encouraged Staff to keep an eye on water levels moving into the drought season.

CEO Parno thanked Board Member Relyea for his continued monitoring of the area, and the information he has shared previously. Mr. Parno is pleased Highway 224 is open and plans to drive Highway 224 again, once the path is open fully to Timothy Lake, to assess the impact of those fires.

(7) **Business from the Board**

Vice Chair McGriff stated that since she and Chair Walters were both on the MPAC Committee, it would be helpful if this meeting could begin at 7:05 pm. She had not wanted to leave tonight's MPAC meeting early as shelter siting, a timely topic for Oregon City, was being discussed.

Chair Walters noted that she was an alternate on MPAC and only attended when Councilor Sherman could not. The MPAC meetings were not usually as long as today's meeting, which had a packed agenda. However, she was fine waiting until everyone arrived at this meeting.

The Board consented to hold future meetings at 7:05 pm.

Chris Crean, SFWB Counsel, reported he had not yet heard back from the Court of Appeals on the decision regarding the water rights case that was argued last January.

Chair Walters explained she would not be attending the AWWA Conference because her youngest son was graduating from middle school at that time. She also wished Alice Richmond a happy birthday.

Alice Richmond said it was not too late or too early to be thinking about water rates considering the current economy. South Fork's rate is cheaper than the other water providers. West Linn had an automatic 5 percent increase, but there were never enough capital reserves to repair damages which could occur at any time. She wanted reserves on each side of the river to be healthy enough so the Cities would not have to explain to water users that there were not enough funds to cover the expenses. She also did not want SFWB to end up in a situation where there were not enough funds or enough preparation.

Chair Walters asked that a discussion about water rates be placed on a future agenda.

- (8) **Executive Session –Adjourn regular meeting and convene Executive Session if needed.**
No Executive Session was held.
- A. To consider the employment of a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(a).
 - B. To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(f).
 - C. 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).
- (9) **Reconvene Regular Meeting if needed to take any action necessary as determined in Executive Session.**

Chair Walters adjourned the regular meeting at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

By Paula Pinyerd, ABC Transcription Services, LLC.
for Wyatt Parno, SFWB CEO