

SOUTH FORK WATER BOARD
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
October 26, 2022

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

Board Members Excused: Frank O'Donnell, Oregon City Commissioner

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

Others Present: Kimberly Swan, Clackamas River Water Providers
Rebecca Geisen, Regional Water Providers Consortium

General Board Meeting

(1) **Call to Order**
Chair Walters called the meeting of the South Fork Water Board to order at 7:05 pm.

(2) **Roll Call**

(3) **Public Comments**
There were none.

(4) **Consent Agenda**
(A) Approval of the Minutes of the July 27, 2022, Board Meeting.

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

(5) **Regional Water Providers Consortium Presentation**

Wyatt Parno, CEO, explained the Consortium was a partnership of several water providers in the region and supports its members at the state and national level. He noted that Chair Walters was the Consortium's vice chair last year and Board Member Relyea was representing SFWB on the Consortium this year. He introduced Rebecca Geisen, noting her good work supporting SFWB.

Rebecca Geisen, Regional Water Providers Consortium, provided an overview of the Consortium via PowerPoint. A copy of the PowerPoint was included in the agenda packet. Her presentation included the history of and background information about the Consortium, the mission and focus areas of the Consortium, and the resources the Consortium provides to its members.

Chair Walters complimented the Consortium on their public outreach efforts.

Ms. Geisen responded to comments and answered questions from Board members with the following comments:

- Metro was a Consortium member for several years, but they left the organization seven or eight years ago, so they are not as engaged with the Consortium as they once were. Metro is not a water provider, but they did have a critical role in the formation of the Consortium. Ms. Geisen keeps in contact with Metro's planner and GIS team to stay up to date on what Metro is working on.
- Membership fees for SFWB are \$43,142 a year. The membership fees are based on the number of service connections and average annual water use.
- The Consortium board meetings include regular business, like budget approvals, but also guest speakers and discussions about issues and topics that are important to the membership.

Vice Chair McGriff stated she was glad that it was no longer every district for themselves. Now, there is cooperation, which is necessary because water is a scarce commodity.

(6) **Clackamas River Water Providers Presentation**

Wyatt Parno, CEO, explained that the Clackamas River Water Providers (CRWP) was SFWB's local partner in the Clackamas River basin. The organization supports the community by protecting the watershed through conservation programs. He served as SFWB's representative in the CRWP. He introduced Kim Swan, CRWP's Water Resource Manager, noting her professional background and experience.

Kim Swan, CRWP, gave a presentation via PowerPoint. A copy of her PowerPoint was included in the agenda packet. Her presentation provided a brief history of and background information about CRWP, the organization's mission and goals, and details about their programs, services, and outreach efforts. She outlined efforts to reach out to recreational users of the watershed to minimize pollution and raise awareness of the fact that the water they are swimming in is the same water used for drinking. She also gave a high-level overview of CRWP's 2021-2022 Annual Report, which was also included in the agenda packet.

Vice Chair McGriff stated that she took advantage of the CRWP rebate when she purchased a new energy efficient toilet. She had seen the rebate brochure at City Hall and wished more people knew about the rebate.

Ms. Swan responded that Christine did a good job putting information out in a variety of city offices and big box retail stores. A couple hundred rebates are processed each year.

CEO Parno thanked Ms. Geisen and Ms. Swan for their informative presentations and the work they do to support South Fork and other water providers.

(7) **Business from the CEO**

1) Water Operations Bi-Monthly Meeting (West Linn Distribution System Tour)

Wyatt Parno, CEO, explained that South Fork coordinated bi-monthly meetings with operations staff from Oregon City and West Linn. Previously, the city staffs were trained on the emergency water treatment trailers and toured the South Fork facilities. Last week,

Oregon City and South Fork Staff toured West Linn's distribution system. He appreciated the connection among the operations teams.

2) Revenue Impact of I-205 Widening Project

Wyatt Parno, CEO, stated that Board Member Bialostosky had asked him to provide an estimate of the revenue impact of the I-205 widening project. West Linn's watermain is fastened to the Abernathy Bridge and when the bridge is widened, the pipe will be taken offline from about October 2023 through March or April 2024. During that time, West Linn will be tied into the Lake Oswego Tigard intertie. As a result, South Fork's estimated revenue loss will be about \$700,000, which is about seven percent of South Fork's annual revenue. That loss will have to be factored into the budget for that fiscal year. South Fork will still be able to function, but capital projects would be impacted.

Board Member Bialostosky said he wanted to explore ways to get that lost revenue replaced. As the City works on getting legislative funding, the City should advocate for South Fork as well.

Chair Walters suggested City staff could reach out to legislative lobbyist Doug Riggs, Representative Prusak, and Senator Wagner.

Vice Chair McGriff stated she was concerned that six to eight months was probably an estimate. South Fork should anticipate that the pipe would be offline for longer.

3) Chemical Feed Building

Wyatt Parno, CEO, updated the Board on the chemical feed building. The land use process had been completed and the final plans had been submitted to Oregon City's development and engineering staff. The plans would be reviewed by the Oregon Health Authority next. South Fork will go out to bid early next year. He asked Board members if any of them would like to participate on the proposal review committee. He also noted that construction should take about 18 months, so the project would be complete in 2024. The Board may also need to consider the impact of waiting for adjustments in the economy if costs come in much higher than anticipated.

4) Summer Operations (Hiram Line, Hypo Cells, General Operations)

Wyatt Parno, CEO, reported that the summer climate was mild with a lot of rainfall, so revenue was lower in the summer. However, October was sunny, so revenue increased then, which put South Fork in a good place. He also reported on the following:

- The hypochlorite generation cells began degrading due to age. Over the past 10 to 15 years, staff has been rebuilding the cells to keep them operable, but they can no longer be rebuilt at this time. New cells would cost about \$90,000 and the expense was already included in the budget. Buying new cells would be much less expensive than buying chlorine in bulk, but purchased chlorine was South Fork's backup. The cell manufacturer guaranteed the cells and would send the top technician to assist with installation.
- A couple of small leaks were found recently on the Hiram Avenue watermain, which was placed in backup status three years ago. The water line does not currently have any customers attached to it, so it was dewatered. However, the line may be included

in the capital plan for a future build out. While there is no urgency, staff planned to assess the watermain to determine what additional steps should be taken.

5) Meeting Room Updates and Winter Schedule

Wyatt Parno, CEO, said he had received an inexpensive quote from the IT contractor for setting up the conference room for in-person meetings. The chemical feed building, which would be built next year, would have a board room/community meeting room. He hoped to have in person meetings by the December meeting. However, he noted that SFWB had not held meetings in November or December since 2016. He requested a meeting this December so that he could get approval to purchase the hypochlorite cells and set up in person meetings for the new year. He could also include a presentation on the capital plan in the new year. In 2023, South Fork would be working on the capital plan, the biennial budget, a rate analysis, and system development charges (SDCs).

The Board and Staff discussed possible dates for a December meeting, and the consensus was to tentatively schedule the meeting for December 14th. Several Board members confirmed they would email their availability to CEO Parno after checking their schedules.

(8) **Business from the Board**

Vice Chair Walters confirmed that West Linn had a work session scheduled for November 7th, but it was not posted on the City's website calendar yet.

(9) **Executive Session –Adjourn regular meeting and convene Executive Session if needed.**

No Executive Session was held.

- 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).

(10) **Reconvene Regular Meeting if needed to take any action necessary as determined in Executive Session.**

Chair Walters adjourned the regular meeting at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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