

COOS BAY-NORTH BEND WATER BOARD  
P O BOX 539 – 2305 Ocean Boulevard  
Coos Bay, Oregon 97420

Minutes  
Regular Board Meeting

May 19, 2022  
7:00 a.m.

Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board met in open session in the Board Room at the above address, date, and time with Chair Dr. Charles Sharps presiding. Other Board members present: Greg Solarz, Bob Dillard and Carmen Matthews. Board Members absent: None. Water Board staff present: Ivan D. Thomas, General Manager; Matt Whitty, Engineering Manager; Bryan Tichota, Customer Relations Supervisor; John McKeivitt, Operation Manager; and Karen Parker, Administrative Assistant. Media present: None. Adam Sussman and Leah Cogan of GSI Water Solutions, Inc. were present. The Board welcomed Carmen Matthews as a new member of the Board of Directors. Mr. Matthews stated he is looking forward to serving on the Board and would like to take a tour to get acquainted with the system. Chair Sharps opened the meeting at 7:00 a.m. and lead the Board and assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Sharps asked if there were any corrections or additions to the May 5, 2022, Regular Board meeting minutes. Mr. Dillard moved the minutes be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matthews and passed unanimously.

Chair Sharps asked if there were any public comments, and there were none.

Mr. Thomas presented staff's request to enter into an amended Professional Services Agreement with GSI Water Solutions, Inc. The Board transitioned its water rights management and consulting services in 2018 to GSI Water Solutions, Inc. Since, the Water Board has been very successful in meeting its environmental commitments for water rights management and dunal aquifer storage investigations.

Water Board staff has met with GSI and reviewed the scope of work for the fiscal year 2023 budget. The scope includes work to continue meeting expectations set by regulatory agencies the Water Board has committed to. Staff requests to amend the original GSI contract from 2018 to include an annual renewal and scope of work for fiscal year 2023. A majority of the work to be completed includes water rights management and working to gaining annual approval for the Water Board's Surface Water Management Plan and database management for the dunal aquifer well system located in the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area.

A proposed contract and proposed scope of work was submitted by GSI for dunal aquifer and water rights consulting services for fiscal year 2023. The scope of work contains Dunal Aquifer Management Consultation which includes surface water management annual

reporting and database management, a piezometer maintenance plan, water rights support, ongoing Tenmile Creek water use permit and any additional water rights analysis and management that is needed.

The total of the contract for fiscal year 2023 is \$36,400. Monies are budgeted in the fiscal year 2023 budget for these services. The contract will renew annually and GSI will prepare quotes for budgetary consideration on an annual basis per the terms in the agreement.

Mr. Thomas asked Leah Cogan and Adam Sussman to expand on the proposed scope of work and answer any questions the Board may have. Ms. Cogan introduced herself stating she works out of the Corvallis office. GSI will continue the process on the special use permit for the dunal wellfield. GSI will work with Water Board staff to develop a dunal wellfield utilization strategy and options. The result of this effort will outline the wellfield utilization approach, including development, maintenance, abandonment, and accompanying water rights management needs. As far as the water rights management that GSI has performed in the last year included taking actions to help protect the water rights at Joe Ney Reservoir, and lower Pony Creek. This is a slow process and there is still work to be done working with the State to ensure the permits can be moved into certificate status, especially Upper Pony Creek. GSI is looking forward continuing their partnership in helping the Water Board. Board members commented the scope of work looks very comprehensive and thanked Ms. Cogan and Mr. Sussman for their work.

After a brief discussion, motion was made by Mr. Solarz authorizing the General Manager to enter into the Amended Professional Services Agreement with GSI Water Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$36,400 for dunal aquifer and water rights consulting services for fiscal year 2023. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dillard and passed unanimously.

The Board's next regular meeting was set for Thursday, June 9, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.

Updates were given as follows:

- Water Quality – The water quality has improved since complaints were received. The issue has to do with the organics and powder activated carbon has been used to help take care of the matter. Also, staff has dropped the level in Merritt Lake from 40 feet to 38.5 feet.
- 2019 Timber Sale – Waiting for dry weather to move in, although the foresters have until December 31 to remove all the logs.
- IMS Cap Replacement – The process is going smoothly. Filter 4 is currently being worked on replacing the caps, with one filter remaining.
- RFP for IT Services – Solicitations were made for IT Services and 3 responses were received. Staff will report back to the Board for award of these services.
- Water Main Replacement Bundle-Notice of Award was issued and the Contract has been delivered. The project should begin the first part of July.

At 7:15 a.m. Chair Sharps directed they go into executive session for the purposes of discussing potential litigation pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h) and personnel issues pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(a). They returned to open session at 7:25 a.m.

Mr. Solarz commented it was his understanding since Matson Creek has been taken care of regarding environmental concerns he thought the necessary agency would be notified and in return the Water Board would not have to release 1 cfs into the creek. Mr. Thomas stated staff use to release 4 cfs from the fish flow at all times. The Water Board's commitments at Matson Creek and development of the water rights allowed the Water Board to start releasing only 1 cfs.

There being no other business to come before the Board, Chair Sharps adjourned the meeting at 7:35 a.m.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair Dr. Charles Sharps

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_