

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

Minutes (Updates only)  
Regular Board Meeting – No Quorum-For Update Only

September 7, 2023  
7:00 a.m.

Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board met in the Board Room at the above address, date, and time with Chair Greg Solarz presiding. Board members present: Rob Kilmer. Board Members absent: Bill Richardson and Carmen Matthews. Water Board staff present: Ivan D. Thomas, General Manager; Matt Whitty, Engineering Manager; Jeff Page, Operations Manager; Rick Abbott, Distribution Supervisor; Jeff Miller, Water Treatment Supervisor; Micah Demanett, Meter Services Supervisor; Aimee Hollis, Customer Relations Manager; Jason Mills, Distribution Specialist; Vince Stonesifer, Field Services Technician. Board Legal Counsel Melissa Cribbins was present. Media present: None.

Chair Solarz opened the meeting at 7:00 a.m. and asked Mayor Joe Benetti to lead the Board and assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board member Bill Richardson was to attend virtually but was unable to do so. Due to lack of a quorum, no action was taken on the agenda items.

Chair Solarz asked if there were any public comments and there were none.

Representatives from Travel Southern Oregon Coast were present: Julie Miller, Janice Langlinais, Barb Dunham, Mayor of Coos Bay, Joe Benetti. Eddie Kessler, a trail builder of Ptarmigan Ptrails, LLC, a Pacific NW based trail construction company, and member of Professional Trail Builders Association was present.

In the past, the Board of Directors have been approached by interested parties concerning biking trails being allowed on the Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board Watershed. Travel Southern Oregon Coast has experience in guiding public entities with publicly owned land through the process. Julie Miller stated Mayor Benetti asked her to speak with the Water Board of Directors about the history of the Whisky Run Mountain Bike trail system, how it came to be, where it is today, and what it might look like if the Water Board considered having a trail system on Water Board land. Board members and staff thanked those present for their information and would follow up with them at a later date.

Operations Manager Jeff Page presented recent revisions to the Lead and Copper Rules set forth by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The revised rule introduces significant changes to better safeguard public health, particularly concerning lead exposure in drinking water. Specifically, this information emphasizes the requirements for creating a service line inventory and staff recommendations to efficiently meet those requirements. A service line is defined as the pipe(s) fittings, and meter running between the corporation fitting attached to a water main and a building's inlet. Ownership of the service line can be vested in either the water system or the property owner. The results of the service line inventory must be submitted to the Oregon Health Authority's Drinking Water Services by October 16, 2024. 120Water is a firm that specializes in helping water utilities navigate the complexities of the Lead and Copper Rules compliance. Their comprehensive program offers a range of services tailored to the utility's specific needs.

Matt Bowes, a representative from 120Water, virtually attended to answer any questions the Board may have about the revisions to the Lead and Copper Rules set by the EPA. Mr. Bowes stated 120Water has performed more than 750 of these across the U.S. The best way to save substantial funds over the next 5 to 10 years is to do a thorough job between now and the compliance date of October 2024 using records and available technology to eliminate as many unknowns as possible. Even if there is no lead present in the system in 2024, if those locations remain unidentified and are submitted as unknowns, the Water Board will be required to send an annual notification to the customer being served by that unknown service line with a message that indicates that because it is unknown there is a probability that the location is served by a lead service line. So unknown service lines on the compliance date become the enemy of the utility because that unknown information leads to speculation and additional cost that ultimately the utility and the community don't need to realize if you do a really good job between now and then whittling down those unknowns as much as possible. 120Water's methodology and approach is designed to do this. They want to get the utility in compliance, deliver all information in a State approved EPA template, and get as far as possible with the elimination of unknowns. This will save time and money in what could otherwise be a cumbersome and burdensome process.

All agenda items requiring a motion by the Board will be moved to the September 20, 2023 Regular Board Meeting.

Updates were given as follows:

- High Service Pump Drive Replacement – Both VFD's are running #1 and #2 (the high service pumps going to the Clearwell). When the power went out the plant could not be started. Reese Electric and Scott Kinney were on site and staff were then able to get the plant started. The plant was running on 2 high service pumps for 2 weeks. There are 4 pump drives. Staff have requested quotes on replacement of pumps #3 and #4.

- Vista Court Water Main Replacement – This project is complete.
- Timber Sale – There is a 100 foot Department of Forestry buffer along Merritt Lake; the main loop road runs right along Merritt Lake so there is quite a bit of buffer between the road and the unit we are currently signing a contract to log which is about 2.6 acres. One of the concerns is that we are going to have quite a bit of windthrow there so the forester made an application to harvest that. The Department of Forestry has agreed to this but is asking for a letter of support from the Water Board. Attorney Melissa Cribbins stated a motion was not needed since this would be a letter from the General Manager.

At 8:11 a.m. Chair Solarz 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). The Board returned to open session at 8:27 a.m.

There being no other updates, Chair Solarz adjourned the meeting at 8:27 a.m.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
J. Gregory Solarz, Chair

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