

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

Minutes
Regular Board Meeting

December 19, 2024
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 Carmen Matthews presiding. Other Board members present: Bill Richardson, Rob Kilmer, and Greg Solarz. Board Members absent: none. Water Board staff present: Ivan D. Thomas, General Manager; Matt Whitty, Engineering Manager; Jeff Miller, Operations Manager; Aimee Hollis; Customer Relations Manager; and Stacey Parrott, Executive Assistant & HR Specialist; Board Legal Counsel Melissa Cribbins was absent. Media present: None.

Chair Matthews opened the meeting at 7:00 a.m. and led the Board and assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Matthews asked if there were any corrections or additions to the December 5, 2024, Regular Board meeting minutes. Mr. Solarz moved the minutes be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kilmer and passed unanimously.

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

Regarding the proposed consulting partnership with Fontus Blue and the purchase of a Real UV254 Spectrometer, Operations Manager Jeff Miller shared that with the continued challenges of source water quality and ever-increasing costs for treatment chemicals, many treatment facilities use Fontus Blue to help improve water quality and the use of chemicals more efficiently, decreasing chemical costs. Staff has presented some of the water quality issues encountered daily and seasonally with Fontus Blue; one of the issues is the concentration of Total Organic Carbon (TOCs) in Merritt Lake. Fontus Blue proposed the use of a UV254 Spectrometer to enable daily TOC readings for both raw and finished water. This data can then be uploaded to Fontus Blue to get an accurate forecast of the organic removal ratio and monitor treatment efficiency. Mr. Miller shared insights from other treatment plants utilizing Fontus Blue, reporting positive results. The FY 2024-2025 capital budget includes \$12,000 for the spectrometer and consultation services. Fontus Blue is currently the only consulting firm offering the requested services, qualifying this a sole-source procurement.

Further discussion followed, board members discussed the year-round nature of organic issues, the potential for resolving off-flavor concerns, and the benefits of having real-time data compared to the current monthly sampling. Mr. Richardson moved to authorize the approval of the consulting agreement with Fontus Blue for a total amount not to exceed \$12,000 and make findings that this is approved as a sole source procurement as the only available vendor for these services. The motion was seconded by Mr. Solarz and passed unanimously.

Regarding proposed Dyer Partnership task order #31 for the Clearwell mixer addition and tracer study, Operations Manager Jeff Miller noted that on September 20, 2024, the Board of Directors approved staff to purchase two tank mixers to install in the 9-

million-gallon Clearwell pending review and approval from Oregon Health Authority (OHA). The OHA determined that adding tank mixers would be considered a change in the treatment process and that a new chlorine tracer study will need to be completed along with an approved required OHA plan review signed by a licensed engineer. The Water Board contacted Dyer Partnership for guidance, in which they presented Task Order 31 which would fulfill installation of the tank mixers, completion of the required chlorine contact tracer study, and completing the OHA plan review for \$46,960.00. The Water Board has a budget of \$135,000.00 for the Clearwell tank mixers, reservoir diving and repairs. The combined tank mixers and divers cost approximately \$73,000.00, which leaves \$62,000 to conduct tank and tracer study modeling to meet OHA requirements.

Board members commented on the importance of the continued focus on improving water quality and potential deliverables, including a tracer study that shows chlorine travel time through the treatment process. After a brief discussion, Mr. Kilmer moved to approve the

General Manager's entry into an agreement with Dyer Partnership for Task Order number 31 for \$46,960.00 to guide the Clearwell mixer addition modeling and overseeing the OHA-required chlorine contact tracer study. The motion was seconded by Mr. Richardson and passed unanimously.

The Board's next regular meeting was set for Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 7:00 a.m.

Updates were given as follows:

- Oregon Avenue Fence Project – Materials have been removed from Water Board property and the site is clear, allowing for staking and the completion of the fence installation.
- PAC Unloader and Feed System – The new feed system has been installed and is fully operational.
- Loop Road Damage – Several trees have fallen near the lake side of the road and repairs are underway to address erosion and damage. It was determined that no permit is required under forest road exemptions and will begin work soon to stabilize the damaged areas.

At 7:23 a.m. Chair Matthews directed they go into executive session for the purpose 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 7:36 a.m.

There being no other business to come before the Board, Chair Matthews adjourned the meeting at 7:36 a.m.

Approved: __January 16____, 2025

By: _____
Carmen Matthews, Chair

ATTEST:
