

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

Minutes
Regular Board Meeting

October 21, 2021
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, Melissa Cribbins and Bob Dillard. Board members absent: None. Water Board staff present: Ivan D. Thomas, General Manager; Bryan Tichota, Customer Relations Supervisor; John McKeivitt, Operations Manager; Matt Whitty, Engineering Manager; and Karen Parker, Administrative Assistant. Board Legal Counsel Jim Coffey was absent. Media present: None. Chair Sharps opened the meeting at 7:00 a.m. and asked Mr. Tichota to lead the Board and assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Sharps asked if there were any corrections or additions to the October 7, 2021, Regular Board meeting minutes. Ms. Cribbins moved the minutes be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dillard and passed unanimously.

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

Regarding the proposed purchase of the Valve Nut Rx System, Distribution Specialist Jason Mills state the Valve Nut Rx System is a tool kit that will allow distribution personnel to replace rounded or missing valve operating nuts, without the need to excavate the valve. Over time the square valve operating nut on gate and butterfly valves become rounded-off. This makes the valve inoperable due to the typical valve wrenches' inability to grip the rounded valve operating nut.

In the past, distribution personnel would cut the roadway and excavate to a depth such that they could replace the rounded or missing valve operating nut. This tool kit allows workers to replace inoperable valve nuts up to 7-feet deep. An extension kit is also available for the Valve Nut Rx System to replace them up to a depth of 11-feet, should this be needed in the future.

There are several cost saving advantages associated with this tool. Replacing valve nuts with this tool kit will no longer require the time and materials associated with asphalt cutting, excavation, backfill and asphalt patching. With the Valve Nut Rx System, staff can change an inoperable valve nut in a fraction of the time. This will be a very useful tool in an emergency or for valve maintenance.

Staff proposes using E. H. Wachs as the sole source for the Valve Nut Rx System as they are the regional distributor of the tool.

The Valve Nut Rx System costs \$7,995 with an additional \$225 for shipping for a total of \$8,220. The fiscal year 2022 budget includes \$8,500 for this equipment.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Solarz moved to authorize the sole source purchase of the Valve Nut Rx System for a total cost of \$8,220. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dillard and passed unanimously.

Regarding Fiscal Year 2022 Water Main Designs, Engineering Manager Matt Whitty stated there are four remaining water main replacement projects, as follows:

1. Empire Lane – This Bunker Hill main is a 2-inch diameter black plastic pipe that has become brittle and experienced multiple leaks. This project has a budget of \$53,000 to design and install 500 feet of 2-inch diameter replacement PVC water main.
2. North 12th Street – This Coos Bay main will replace two galvanized iron water mains. Both mains have experienced multiple leaks. One of the mains is within a vacated right-of-way where the Water Board does not have an easement. A newer garage has been constructed over the top of a portion of this main. This project has a budget of \$120,600 to install 1,200 feet of 2-inch diameter replacement PVC and HDPE main.
3. North Empire Boulevard – This proposed 16-inch diameter main is located on Empire Boulevard, north of the Hollering Point. The proposed replacement will relieve a constriction where flows to the Bay Crossing through two 10-inch diameter mains combine and flow through a single 10-inch diameter main on Empire Boulevard for 255 feet between Farley Avenue and Newmark Avenue. Staff discovered the constriction while examining the location of the planned roundabout installation at the intersection of Newmark Avenue and Empire Boulevard. This project has a budget of \$121,400 to install 240 feet of 16-inch diameter replacement main.
4. Sheridan Avenue – This North Bend main is a 6-inch diameter unlined cast iron water main. This project was previously budgeted in FY2015 and a replacement main was designed and prepared for bid. The project was postponed due to the South Empire Boulevard Streetscape Project. Design work will include a review of the previous design and preparation of contract documents for bidding. This project has a budget of \$226,900 to install 920 feet of 8-inch diameter replacement main.

Staff is ready to begin field surveying, design these projects and get bid packets prepared. Dr. Sharps inquired what the total estimate is for these projects to be prepared to go out to bid. Mr. Whitty stated originally these projects were going to be done in-house so they didn't require preparation of a bid package. Mr. Thomas stated the cost of the design is included in the quotes. Mr. Whitty stated \$500,000 is included in the budget for the four projects. After a brief discussion, motion was made by Mr. Solarz authorizing staff to begin field data collection and design of Empire Lane, North 12th Street, North Empire Boulevard and Sheridan Avenue Water Main Replacement Projects. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cribbins and passed unanimously.

The Board's next regular meeting was set for Thursday, November 4, 2021, at 7:00 a.m.

Updates were given as follows:

- Service Center Renovation – Staff met with Crow Clay and Associates to move forward with design of the lobby remodel, to include a walkup window and replacement of doors with a key fob system.
- 2019 Timber Sale – By contract work can't be conducted in the wet weather so once the weather is better work will resume. Contractors have until the end of 2022 to complete.
- Timber Cruising Services – Barnes and Associates are running counts on the lidar data with the ground information.

Ms. Cribbins commented she has been reappointed to the EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee and they had their organizational meeting last week. They discussed their priorities for drinking water for the current administration and their rule making; they are repealing Waters of the U.S. which may have an impact on the utility because there is always that question of whether or not you can clean out ditches without it being a Water of the U.S. because of the way they are defining it. This will go back to court because it will be a real question of whether the Federal Government has jurisdiction over these bodies of water that don't cross interstate boundaries. They have expressed a commitment to remove all lead in drinking water and expect to rule this out in mid-2022 for comments.

At 7:15 a.m. Chair Sharps directed they go into executive session for the purpose of discussing potential litigation pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(h). They returned to open session at 7:41 a.m. There being no other business to come before the Board, Chair Sharps adjourned the meeting at 7:41 a.m.

Approved: _____, 2021

By: _____
Chair Charles Sharps, Ph. D.

ATTEST: _____