

Portland Utility Board

April 4, 2017, 4:00– 6:30pm

Room C, Portland Building

Meeting # 22 Minutes

Attendees:

PUB Members:

Alice Brawley-Chesworth, ex officio
Allan Warman
Cindy Dietz, ex officio
Colleen Johnson
Janet Hawkins
Kendra Smith
Lee Moore
Micah Meskel
Robert Martineau
Scott Robinson
Ted Labbe

Absent:

* Meredith Connolly
* Julia Person
* Marie Walkiewicz, ex officio

*Notice of absence provided prior to meeting

Staff:

Mike Jordan (Director, Bureau of Environmental Services)
Gabe Solmer (Deputy Director, Water)
Dawn Uchiyama (Deputy Director, BES)
Jonas Biery (Business Services Manager, BES)
Cecelia Huynh (Director of Finance and Support Services, Water)
Megan Callahan (Public Affairs Manager, BES)
Taffy Spencer (Senior Communications Representative)
Liam Frost (Policy Director, Commissioner Fish's Office)
Nicole Adams (Communications Director, BES)
Ken Bartocci (Principal Financial Analyst, BES)
Steve Hansen (Capital Program Management & Controls Manager, BES)
Bill Ryan (Chief Engineer, BES)
Jeff Winner (Capital Improvement Program Planning Supervisor, Water)
Marveita Redding (Pollution Prevention Services Group Manager, BES)
Matt Criblez, (Environmental Compliance Manager, BES)
Edward Campbell (Resource Protection and Planning Group Manager, Water)
Yone Akagi (Principal Engineer, Water)
Jennifer Belknap-Williamson (Division Manager, Asset Management, BES)

Shannon Fairchild (Financial Analyst, City Budget Office)
Melissa Merrell (PUB Principal Analyst, City Budget Office)

Public: Janice Thompson (Citizen Utility Board)
Carol Cushman (League of Women Voters)

I. Call to Order, Disclosures of Communications, and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Kendra called the meeting to order at 4pm. Janet had talked with Gabe over the last month about a neighborhood water issue. Kendra and Allan participated in the city council budget work session on March 23. Ted participated in the BES strategic planning process on behalf of a non-profit organization. Ted moved to accept the minutes as submitted; Micah seconded. Colleen abstained since she wasn't present at the last meeting. All other members approved the minutes.

II. Staff Update

Melissa reminded the members of their process for recommending new chairs for appointment by the mayor. Interested candidates will let Melissa know by Friday, April 21. Interested candidates will be listed on the agenda prior to the meeting and the board will follow the adopted board procedures for that discussion. Each candidate will have 3 minutes to make a statement prior to public comments and board discussion and vote.

She reminded the PUB of the calendar for the Budget Monitoring Process (BMP) calendar and confirmed that members wanted to have the budget subcommittee scheduled for April 13 to review the bureau submissions and CBO reviews. The PUB agreed that chair would make a statement, relying on previously approved statements, at the council session. If, after reviewing the submissions and review the budget committee felt that the full board needed to approve other comments, a meeting would be called before the council session for discussion.

III. Regulatory Environment of BES and the Water Bureau

BES

Marveita Redding, Pollution Prevention Services Group Manager and Matt Criblez, Environmental Compliance Manager for BES [presented](#) the regulatory environment of the bureau and provided a [handout](#) for future reference. He talked about the regulations, permits, permit compliance, and asset management. Matt said that the main regulatory drivers are public awareness, science, regulatory changes, and innovation/technology.

He then walked through the major permits. The bureau has an administrative extension of the permit at the Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant (CBWTP) and there are several anticipated new requirements. The bureau expects to get the new permit soon. The bureau's NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program) MS4 (Municipal Separated Storm Sewer System Permit) was also administratively extended. There were two 2 identified deficiencies in EPA's 2013 audit; erosion control and spill response. There is currently no DEQ manager for that program.

Matt talked about the general challenges with DEQ. The agency has a new director, three new commissioners, funding shortages, and a lawsuit associated with lack of resources to name a

few. This leaves a lot of uncertainty. EPA may try and make up for lack of oversight of DEQ. It could mean a shift from negotiated permits to mandated activities.

The bureau is preparing for permit negotiations, conducting internal compliance audits, and anticipating that BES will have to make up for loss of oversight.

Allan asked if there was currently room at CBWTP for the additional clarifiers and Matt said yes, the plan is to remove the composters to make room.

The bureau also uses asset protection of CSO reduce the amount of stormwater being treated as wastewater. The work both remove pollutants and decreases flows. This is an area will a lot of future work potential to remove pressure from the treatment plants.

Lee asked about the bureau's detection capabilities and Matt talked about spill response and the ability of the lab to finger print certain pollutants. This is important for compliance orders. Lee asked a follow-up question about BES' jurisdiction if the source property is outside of Portland. Matt said the bureau works with DEQ to facilitate that work and the region is getting better at working together.

Robert asked if the issues with DEQ and EPA have the potential to impact rates if BES has to pick up the slack. Matt said DEQ is really good but lack resources. BES does first investigation and then sends it back to DEQ if not a BES responsibility. Kendra said her experience was some agencies funded position at DEQ to work on permits. BES is not doing that currently for this work.

Water

Edward Campbell, Resource Protection and Planning Group Manager and Yone Akagi, Principal Engineer presented the regulatory environment for the Water Bureau.

Yone started with the [Safe Drinking Water Act](#) and talked about the [Lead and Copper Rule](#) and the LT2 [Cryptosporidium](#) variance.

There was a board conversation about *cryptosporidium*. Bureau testing detected cryptosporidium between January and March and the bureau has notified OHA that testing will exceed the variance threshold and is waiting to hear back from OHA on what the next steps are. Allan asked if the bureau has detected the source. Yone responded no and they probably won't definitively identify a source. Data suggests it is wildlife. Ted asked how expensive it is to model and fingerprint the samples and when the bureau shifts to solutions or resolutions. Yone responded that it isn't time intensive to do the testing and modeling compared to the overall program. She said the value is in what we can learn—if they had found human infectious strain (which they didn't) that would point to potential sources of sewage.

Edward talked about the [environmental regulatory](#) work of the Water Bureau. Like BES, Water has an NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program) Permit to regulate discharge of potable water from main breaks or maintenance activities.

The primary environmental regulation of the bureau is the Bull Run Water Habitat Conservation (HCP) Plan. Edward had provided the [HCP list of measures](#) to board members prior to the

meeting. Fish habitat was impacted by Bull Run. Most of the land used for the watershed is federally owned; city elected for conservation plan approach because it provided city opportunity to shape mitigation plan. The HCP gives us long term compliance insurance. The plan has a 50-year time frame. Terms of HCP were negotiated with National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The majority of investments are being done now or have already happened. The Dam 2 Tower project is complete and easements obtained have been more productive than thought.

Alice said 50 years is a long time; how much adaptive management is there in the HCP plan? Edward responded that few things that have to do regardless of cost, for example, mitigating temperature. The bureau doesn't know what could happen if they exhaust temperature control options. The plan also caps adaptive management responsibilities to limit the city's liability.

IV. **BES Strategic Plan**

Dawn Uchiyama, Deputy Director, Bureau of Environmental Services and Chris Wallace Caldwell, Catalysis updated the PUB on the BES strategic plan. Dawn began by reminding the PUB of the BES [timeline](#). PUB was given the employee survey [results](#) which was conducted in December. Scott made an observation that the employee scores don't match with priorities identified. Chris and Dawn responded that sometimes a topic was mentioned in open-ended responses and wouldn't be reflected in the scored sections. Micah commented that the questions and draft mission, vision, values statement were light on the environmental side. Colleen commented on the Supporting Employees scores. The scoring was low on understanding priorities of other work groups. She thought this was a significant finding that employees would benefit from more communication and training of each other's work and priorities.

Dawn update the PUB on next steps – the bureau is working to get feedback from external stakeholders and would bring those findings to PUB in the summer.

V. **BES Public Awareness Focus Groups**

Megan Callahan, Public Affairs Manager, BES and Taffy Spencer, Senior Communications Representative for BES briefed the PUB on plans to do focus groups for the bureau. The bureau hasn't done this work since 2010 and a lot has changes with the bureau since then. The bureau is hoping to learn about customer perceptions of BES, what types of communication tools are the best way to reach customers, and what are their top priorities. This outreach work will augment the bureaus strategic planning process. There will be five two-hour focus groups. The bureau is looking to do them in inner east and outer east Portland. The bureau has an equitable identification strategy and have worked with the Bureau of Equity and Human Rights to finalize the questions.

The focus groups will be done in April and May. PUB members will be invited to attend.

Allan suggested the bureau use 'customer' rather than rate payer. Ted asked if both renters and homeowners would be included and, yes, both will be part of the focus groups. Kendra asked if the bureau had a process to go back to every few years to check the pulse of the community and the Megan said that was something they'll consider.

VI. BES Resiliency and Climate

Jennifer Belknap-Williamson, Division Manager, Asset Systems Management, BES, [presented](#) the climate resiliency work happening at the bureau. The bureau is building climate resiliency with infrastructure and planning. The findings from analysis and risk assessment in the BES Resiliency Master Plan will inform design approaches and resource needs; as well as recommendations for bureau manuals. She presented a risk map that showed areas where the bureau can reduce some risks presented by current capacity, condition, or treatment deficiencies. The risk to service levels fall into three general categories: basement backups, CSO and SSO, and flooding scenarios.

The Resiliency Master Plan includes work to gather historical data, downscale climate models, and creating long-term models. Kendra asked if the bureau was coordinating with other agencies outside the city and Jennifer said they had started working with Water Bureau and were reaching out to ACWA (Oregon Association of Clean Water Associations). Kendra suggested reaching out to others would bring a regional perspective and the bureau could get more for your buck than doing it by yourself.

Ted mentioned the recent city club [report](#) that talked about the perception and reality of the ability of the city to recover after a major earthquake. Jennifer said that part of the bureau's resiliency work is to close that gap. She offered to come back and do a presentation specifically on the earthquake recovery work.

The current plan for the master plan is that the first phase (risk assessment and implementation plan) will take about 18 months, the next phase would be initial implementation over 5 years, and ongoing implementation would continue to 50-year goal.

VII. Items for next agenda

May 2, 2017, The Portland Building 4PM.

- Rate Update and Discussion
- Co-chair Recommendation
- Low Income Subcommittee Update
- Board conversation strategic planning

There were no other public comments.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.