



MEETING MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING
VIA HYBRID
JULY 26, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

At 3:01 p.m. Chair Sweet called the meeting to order. Board Members confirmed that they received the meeting materials and could hear the speakers clearly.

2. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: City of Bellevue (Barksdale), City of Kirkland (Sweet), City of Redmond (Birney), City of Tukwila (Ekberg), Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District (Warren), and Skyway Water and Sewer District (Ault)

Board Member Absent: City of Issaquah (Joe)

Board Alternates Present: City of Bellevue (Stokes), City of Issaquah (Reh), Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District (Hooshangi)

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lake Tapps community member Jeff Lincoln expressed his appreciation with Cascade's management of the lake. In particular, he recognized Ray Hoffman, and Joe Mickelson for their professionalism in preserving the precious resource of the lake.

Lake Tapps community member Nancy Lien expressed her appreciation to Joe Mickelson for the recent tour of the complex operating system at Lake Tapps. On behalf of the community, she thanked Cascade for all that is done to preserve the lake.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Ms. Birney and second by Mr. Ekberg to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Chuck Clarke, Cascade Acting CEO, reviewed the Chief Executive Officer's Report that was included in the Board Packet. He also expressed his appreciation to the Lake Tapps community members that provided Public Comments.

6. CONSENT ITEM

A. Board Meeting Minutes for May 24, 2023.

Motion by Mr. Ekberg and second by Ms. Birney to approve Consent Action Item A as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

7. OTHER ACTION ITEMS

- A. Motion to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a consultant to develop a water quality management plan that identifies specific strategies and actions to protect the Lake Tapps Reservoir's water quality for future municipal use.

Melina Thung, Cascade Chief of Staff, said that results of the recently completed two-year water quality sampling and monitoring study by Cascade's consultant, Herrera, indicate that the Lake Tapps Reservoir is currently healthy with low levels of pollutants. Maintaining the Reservoir's water quality is critical to protect its resiliency and reliability as a future source of drinking water for Cascade's Members. Water quality is key to reducing the risks of shortening the life of the Reservoir, experiencing higher capital and operating costs for the future treatment plant, and experiencing operational problems at the treatment plant and supply disruptions.

Since the Reservoir will not be developed for municipal supply for many years, Ms. Thung reminded Board Members that on May 24, 2023 the Board approved Cascade's Drinking Water Quality Policy Framework. The Policy Framework provides Cascade staff with guidance on what potential water quality programs, projects, policies, and other activities should be considered prior to building out the Reservoir. This includes the timing of and investment amounts for water quality activities.

As its first proposed activity, Cascade staff recommends hiring a consultant to develop a water quality management plan that will identify the highest priority, most impactful, and most cost-effective strategies and actions to protect the Lake Tapps Reservoir's water quality for future municipal use – "Water Quality Management Plan" (WQMP). The WQMP is not intended to address non-water quality issues in the Reservoir such as strategies to improve recreational uses, boat management, fisheries and wildlife, or habitat.

Cascade staff evaluated the proposed WQMP via the Policy Framework and determined that it meets all Threshold Criteria and most of the Additional Criteria. One of the benefits of the WQMP is that it will take a holistic approach by prioritizing and sequencing a menu of potential actions to optimize water quality benefits in a cost-effective manner. This includes exploring Herrera's recommendations in their 2022 report. This approach is expected to result in better outcomes than the alternative of taking a piecemeal approach (e.g., presenting individual proposed actions over time for Board consideration and approval).

Ms. Thung said that if the Motion is adopted, Cascade staff will issue the RFP, negotiate the terms of a contract, and seek Board approval to contract with the selected firm. During the WQMP's development, Cascade staff will regularly check in with the consultant to ensure the Plan is meeting the scope, schedule, and budget. Staff will also provide updates on the WQMP's progress to the Resource Management Committee and the Board. If any of the consultant's recommendations involve parties external to Cascade, partnering with these entities will be important to successful implementation. Staff will consult with the Board prior to engaging with external parties. The completed WQMP will be presented to the Board for consideration and approval as a planning document. At that time, the Board may direct Cascade to seek future Board approval for any of the proposed actions before they are implemented.

Ms. Thung responded to questions from Board Members.

Motion by Mr. Warren and second by Ms. Birney to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to issue a Request for Proposal for a consultant to develop a water quality management plan that identifies specific strategies and actions to protect the Lake Tapps Reservoir's water quality for future municipal use. Motion carried unanimously (6-0)

8. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

A. Sumner White River Restoration Project Update.

T.C. Richmond, Cascade General Counsel, shared recent information indicating that BNSF may be reconsidering the scope of its train track expansion project. If BNSF decides to change the scope or pull out of the project entirely, it could impact Sumner's Mitigation project, the real estate transactions, and the consideration that Cascade expects to receive as part of the agreements to transfer property. Staff will keep the Board and committees updated on the status of this issue.

B. Seattle and Tacoma Contract Negotiations Status Update.

Ed Cebron, Cascade Chief Economist/Treasurer, provided a status update on the Seattle and Tacoma contract negotiations. This is a complex issue. Staff will meet with Member staff to discuss the negotiations and impact in further detail.

Ms. Cebron responded to questions from Board Members.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 4:12 p.m., Chair Sweet announced that there would be an Executive Session to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency. The Executive Session was expected to take 45 minutes.

At 5:00 p.m., the Executive Session adjourned.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee – No Meetings Held.

B. Finance & Management Committee – Meeting held June 20, 2023 and July 18, 2023. Meeting recap included in the Board Packet.

C. Public Affairs Committee – No Meetings Held.

D. Resource & Management Committee – Meeting held July 13, 2023. Meeting recap included in the Board Packet.

11. NEW BUSINESS

None.

12. NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Chair Sweet announced that the August Board and Committee meetings are canceled. The next regular Board meeting will be held on September 27, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.

13. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

APPROVED BY:



Penny Sweet, Chair



Angela Birney, Vice-Chair