



MEETING MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
VIA HYBRID
OCTOBER 25, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

At 3:32 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 Issaquah (Joe), City of Kirkland (Sweet), City of Redmond (Birney), City of Tukwila (Ekberg¹), Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District (Warren), and Skyway Water and Sewer District (Ault)

Board Alternates Present: Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District (Hooshangi)

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Chuck Clarke, Cascade Acting CEO, reviewed the Chief Executive Officer's Report that was included in the Board Packet.

Chair Sweet noted that Ray Hoffman, CEO, has been on a leave of absence and is returning to work effective October 31, 2023. He is requesting to work 50% rather than 80% through the end of the year. Chuck Clarke's role as Acting CEO will end upon Ray Hoffman's return. Ray Hoffman's intent is to appoint Mr. Clarke to continue to work at Cascade as a part-time term-limited employee to lead the water supply contract negotiations.

7. CONSENT ITEM

A. Board Meeting Minutes for September 27, 2023.

¹ Joined the Zoom at 3:41 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Warren and second by Mr. Joe to approve Consent Action Item A as presented. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

8. OTHER ACTION ITEM

- A. Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-13 adopting Cascade's 2024 Legislative and Public Policy Agenda.

Alison Bennett, Cascade Intergovernmental & Communications Director, said that it's once again time to develop a legislative and public policy agenda to guide Cascade's activities at the federal, state, and municipal levels of government in order to further Cascade's and its members' interests. This agenda builds on Cascade's existing relationships with legislators, agency staff, state and national water industry organizations, and other partners in order to advance key interests as well as track and respond to issues as they arise during the year.

The 2024 Legislative and Public Policy Agenda was included in the Board Packet and is similar to Cascade's 2023 agenda. It continues to focus on affordability, PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) measures at both the state and federal levels, resiliency, and continued monitoring of funding opportunities. New this year are additional provisions regarding utility relocation costs, support for the development of a state program for low-income household water assistance, and monitoring specific rulemaking by the Department of Ecology for opportunities to advocate for Cascade's interests.

Motion by Ms. Birney and second by Mr. Joe to adopt Resolution No. 2023-13 adopting Cascade's 2024 Legislative and Public Policy Agenda. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

9. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

- A. Contract Negotiation Briefing Schedule.

Ms. Bennett said that the preliminary schedule, included in the Board Packet, is no longer accurate. A revised schedule will be distributed once Seattle and Tacoma have conversed.

- B. Water Shortage Update.

Mr. Clarke gave a brief update on the water shortage and shared updated information from SPU on water usage. Water use has dropped from an average of 149 mgd on September 18 to 117 mgd on October 2.

- C. Sumner White River Habitat Restoration Project Update.

Mr. Clarke said that Sumner announced that the joint Sumner and Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad Flood Plain and Railroad Tracks Widening project will no longer be a joint project due to BNSF pulling out of the project. Sumner is planning on a standalone project and will work with all its stakeholders and partners on the redesign and revision of impacted agreements. Cascade is in the beginning stages of active conversation with Sumner to determine an agreement and compensation that is beneficial to Cascade. T.C. Richmond, Cascade General Counsel, reviewed the timeline for the project.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Executive Committee – Meeting held October 18, 2023. Meeting recap included in the Board Packet.
- B. Finance & Management Committee – No meeting held.
- C. Public Affairs Committee – Meeting held October 4, 2023. Meeting recap included in the Board Packet.
- D. Resource & Management Committee – No meeting held.

Mr. Warren said that utilities and other public water systems that have found PFAS must adhere to the specific deadline to opt out of a multi-party litigation settlement. Cascade Members are encouraged to look into the lawsuit details.

11. NEW BUSINESS

None.

12. NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Chair Sweet announced that the next regular Board meeting will be held on November 15, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.

13. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

APPROVED BY:



Penny Sweet, Chair



Angela Birney, Vice-Chair