



MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
VIA HYBRID  
JANUARY 22, 2025

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

At 3:30 p.m. Chair Sweet called the meeting to order.

**2. ROLL CALL**

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

Board Members Absent: City of Issaquah (Pauly)

Board Alternates Present: City of Bellevue (Stokes), City of Issaquah (Joe), City of Redmond (Nuevacamina), City of Tukwila (Martinez), Sammamish Plateau Water & Sewer District (Hooshangi)

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**4. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Sweet said that the meeting agenda needs to be altered to include a new item as 8A (Indemnification). The original Items 8A and 8B will be adjusted to 8B and 8C.

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

**6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Ray Hoffman, Cascade CEO, reviewed the Chief Executive Officer's Report that was included in the Board Packet, and responded to questions from Board Members.

**7. CONSENT ITEMS**

A. Board Meeting Minutes for November 20, 2024.

B. Motion to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute various 2025 Cascade sponsorship agreements for a combined total not to exceed \$47,000 (as shown in the events listed in the Agenda Memo).

- C. Motion to adopt Resolution 2025-03 authorizing the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with legal counsel, to finalize and execute a five-year temporary construction easement to be granted by Cascade Water Alliance to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, related to the Corps' Mud Mountain Dam Fish Passage Project, substantially in the form included in the Board Packet.

**Motion by Mr. Ault and second by Ms. Birney to approve Consent Action Items A-C as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).**

## **8. OTHER ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Motion for Indemnification

Cascade's legal counsel explained that Cascade's Contract Operator for the Lake Tapps Reservoir Project ("Project") is Veolia Water North America West LLC ("Veolia"). On April 30, 2024, a complaint was filed against Veolia by a former Veolia employee, assigned to the Project, regarding a wage dispute. The matter is Jeffery Rohr v. Veolia Water North America – West, LLC, Pierce County Superior Court, No. 24-2-07625-1 ("Matter"). Cascade has not been named a party in the Matter. However, a former Cascade employee, Jon Shimada, has been contacted by Mr. Rohr's attorney for an interview related to the Matter. During his employment, Mr. Shimada oversaw the contract with Veolia. He has requested legal representation and indemnification by Cascade for this Matter. To date, no other Cascade employees have been subpoenaed in this Matter, but that may occur in the future.

Cascade's legal counsel, explained that Chapter 2.20 of the Cascade Water Alliance Code ("CWAC") addresses indemnification of directors, officers and employees.

By this motion, the Board would authorize the indemnification of Mr. Shimada, based on the Cascade CEO's determination that Mr. Shimada's activities during the supervision of the Veolia contract were in compliance with each element of CWAC 2.20.020, and legal representation of Mr. Shimada by Cascade's attorney upon consent by the CEO, or alternatively another attorney designated by Cascade's attorney. In addition, in the event that another current or former employee of Cascade is subpoenaed in the Matter and requests indemnification and representation, this motion authorizes the CEO to make the determination that the requestor meets the standard of conduct in CWAC 2.20.020 and shall be indemnified and provided legal representation by Cascade's attorney upon consent by the CEO, or alternatively another attorney designated by Cascade's attorney.

**Motion by Ms. Birney and second by Mr. Ault to approve (1) Cascade's CEO's determination that Mr. Shimada has met the standard of conduct under CWAC 2.20.020 for indemnification in connection with the indemnification and legal representation of Mr. Shimada in the Rohr v. Veolia Matter, (2) legal representation of Mr. Shimada in such Matter by Cascade's attorney upon consent by the CEO, or alternatively an attorney designated by Cascade's attorney, in such matter, and (3) authorizing the CEO to make a determination on behalf of the Board that any additional Cascade employee or former employee requesting indemnification and legal representation in such Matter meets the standard of conduct in CWAC 2.20.020 and will be indemnified and provided legal representation in such matter by Cascade's attorney upon consent by the CEO, or alternatively an attorney designated by Cascade's attorney. At the question, motion carried unanimously (6-0).**

- B. Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-02 adopting the 2025 Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan with direction to the Chief Executive Officer to submit the Plan to the Department of Ecology and proceed with implementation of the Plan.

Melina Thung, Chief of Staff, explained that the purpose of the IAVMP is to provide long-term adaptive management strategies for aquatic plants that are cost effective, ecologically sustainable, and maintain the Lake Tapps Reservoir's water quality, with a focus on water quality for future drinking water supply. The Plan includes two recommendations which were evaluated using the Board-approved Drinking Water Quality Policy Framework: 1) continued chemical treatment of milfoil, and 2) regular reservoir-wide surveys to monitor other non-native and native nuisance plants. The Plan does not include treatment of any plants other than milfoil, and staff would return to the Board for direction if a future reservoir survey indicated a need for treatment of additional plants. A determination of non-significance for SEPA and a public comment period have been conducted. The IAVMP Executive Summary was included in the Board Packet.

Cascade staff responded to various questions from Board Members.

**Motion by Mr. Warren and second by Mr. McLeod to adopt Resolution No. 2025-02 adopting the 2025 Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan with direction to the Chief Executive Officer to submit the Plan to the Department of Ecology and proceed with implementation of the Plan. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).**

- C. Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-01 Authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to Execute Agreements with the City of Tacoma for Wholesale Water Supply.

Mr. Hoffman explained that Cascade and Tacoma staff and their respective attorneys have negotiated the terms of the new water supply contracts/agreements. The final draft contracts were included in the Board Packet. Throughout the contract negotiations, Tacoma has been a collaborative partner with shared goals and values. The draft contracts reflect this, and the outcomes of the contracts provide great benefit to both Cascade and Tacoma.

**Motion by Ms. Birney and second by Mr. Warren to adopt Resolution No. 2025-01 Authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to Execute Agreements with the City of Tacoma for Wholesale Water Supply.**

**Motion by Mr. Hamilton and second by Ms. Birney to amend Section 2 of the Agreement to the following:**

**Section 2. Governance and Oversight. ~~In~~By December 31, 2025, Cascade staff shall present, for approval of the Board, guidelines for the role of Board regarding the five (5) year reviews and the Management Agreements. The Board shall receive periodic updates starting by July 1, 2025.**

**At the question, motion carried unanimously (6-0) to approve the amendment to the main motion.**

Mr. Hamilton said that the amendment ensures that the Board is able to receive updates on staff's work throughout the process of developing the guidelines for the role of the Board in reviews and Management Agreements.

**At the question, motion carried unanimously (6-0) to approve the main motion, as amended.**

Board Members and staff discussed the significance of the agreement. Tacoma Water Deputy Superintendent, Jessica Knickerbocker, expressed her appreciation to Cascade staff and Board Members for the monumental agreement.

**9. STAFF PRESENTATIONS**

A. Seattle Regional Collaboration Discussion Update.

Mr. Hoffman said that the scheduled meeting between the Executive Committee and Mayor Bruce Harrell has been postponed until mid-February.

**10. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Executive Committee – Meeting held January 7, 2025. The meeting recap was included in the Board Packet.
- B. Finance & Management Committee – Meeting held January 14, 2025. The meeting recap was included in the Board Packet.
- C. Public Affairs Committee – Meeting held January 8, 2025. The meeting recap was included in the Board Packet.
- D. Resource & Management Committee – Meeting held January 9, 2025. The meeting recap was included in the Board Packet.

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**12. NEXT REGULAR MEETING**


The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on February 26, 2025 at 3:30 p.m.

**13. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

  
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Penny Sweet, Chair

  
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Angela Birney, Vice-Chair