



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 2, 2024

Butte Falls Community Hall – 1st/Ground Floor

555 Main Street, Butte Falls, Oregon

The regular meeting of the Medford Water Commission was called to order at 11:37 a.m. on the above date at the Butte Falls Community Hall with the following commissioners, staff, and guests present:

Chair Bob Strosser; Commissioners Jason Anderson, John Dailey, Mike Smith, and David Wright.

General Manager Brad Taylor, Executive Administrative Assistant Amber Furu, Finance Manager Beau Belikoff, Engineering Manager Brian Runyen, Information Technology Manager Kris Stitt, Water Operations Manager Dan Perkins, Capital & Special Projects Coordinator Andy Huffman, Water Resources & Customer Service Manager Julie Smitherman, Watershed Coordinator Arlo Todd, Watershed Specialist Katie Baker, Big Butte Springs Supervisor Dennis Burg, Water Systems Operator II Josh Sutfin, Water Treatment Operations Specialist III Anthony Thompson

Guest(s): Attorney Mark Bartholomew

3. Comments from the Audience

None.

4. Consent Calendar

4.1 Approval or Correction of the Minutes of the Last Regular Meeting of September 18, 2024

4.2 Resolution No. 1958, A RESOLUTION Authorizing the Chair of the City of Medford, By and Through its Board of Water Commissioners to Execute a Quitclaim Deed Releasing All Right and Title to, and Interest in, the Entire Easement Originally Recorded as Document No. 2000-18025 on April 28, 2000

Motion: Approve the Consent Calendar

Moved by: Mr. Dailey Seconded by: Mr. Wright

Roll Call: Commissioners Anderson, Dailey, Smith, Strosser, and Wright voting yes.

Motion carried and so ordered.

5. Items Removed from Consent Calendar

None.

6. Resolution No. 1959, A RESOLUTION Adopting Medford Water's Source Water Protection Plan to Protect the Water Quality and Sustainability of Our Water Resources

Water Resources & Customer Service Manager Julie Smitherman and Watershed Coordinator Arlo Todd presented Medford Water's Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP), which aims to protect the drinking water sources—Big Butte Springs (BBS) and the Rogue River. The plan identifies strategies to safeguard these resources from natural and human-related risks, such as wildfires, land use, and spills. Key objectives include improving water quality in Rogue River tributaries, reducing wildfire risks in the BBS watershed, and enhancing spill prevention. Developed collaboratively with various stakeholders and regulatory bodies, the plan is adaptable and will evolve through ongoing monitoring and assessment. Commissioner Wright asked about the location of high-risk urban industrial zones, which Todd confirmed are in White City and Eagle Point. Commissioner Dailey expressed concerns over water rights enforcement, specifically regarding Carey Pond and landowners exceeding allocations. He stressed the need for a clear policy and proactive communication with landowners. Todd acknowledged the complexities of enforcement, explaining their reliance on collaboration with the Jackson County Watermaster and

suggested renewing their intergovernmental agreement to strengthen water rights enforcement. Commissioner Strosser agreed on the importance of consistent enforcement and education. Commissioner Anderson asked about the current anchor points at the water intake. Todd explained that they use a diagonal boom to divert floating contaminants and are adding a wrapping intake. He also noted a recent \$50,000 grant from the Oregon Health Authority to buy this equipment. Commissioner Smith raised concerns about dispersed camping in restricted areas affecting the BBS watershed. Todd acknowledged the issue, citing inconsistent Forest Service enforcement due to limited resources, but mentioned ongoing advocacy for better management and offering to fund signage for restricted zones. He also noted campground closures have increased illegal camping.

Motion: Approve Resolution 1959.

Moved by: Mr. Dailey

Seconded by: Mr. Smith

Roll Call: Commissioners Anderson, Dailey, Smith, Strosser, and Wright voting yes.

Motion carried and so ordered.

7. Leadership Team Reports

- General Manager Brad Taylor
 - Upcoming Board Schedule – October 16 - Foothill Road/Table Rock Rd Project Update, November 6 & 20 – Cost of Service and Future Rate Projections

8. Propositions and Remarks from the Commissioners

None.

9. Adjourn

There being no further business, this Commission meeting adjourned at 12:26 p.m. The proceedings of the Medford Water Commission meeting are on file along with the complete agenda of this meeting.



Amber Furu
Assistant Clerk of the Commission