

## **Portland Utility Board**

Tuesday, November 5, 2024, 3:30p.m.

Virtual meeting using Zoom platform

Meeting #192

### **Attendees:**

#### *PUB Members:*

Robin Castro, Chair  
Alexis Rife  
Julia DeGraw  
Karen Williams  
Kyle J Chipman  
Lauren Rosenkranz  
Lorraine Wilson  
Joanne Johnson, Ex-Officio  
Joe Spada, Ex-Officio  
Roslyn Gray, Ex-Officio

#### *Absent:*

Christopher Richard\*  
Heather Day-Melgar\*  
Maly Haghshenas\*  
\*Notice of absence provided prior to meeting

#### *Staff:*

Amy Archer-Masters, Portland Utility Board Analyst, City Budget Office  
Jonna Lynn Bransford, Portland Utility Board Coordinator, City Budget Office  
Mike Jordan, City Administrator  
Priya Dhanapal, Deputy City Administrator for Public Works  
Cecelia Huynh, Portland Water Bureau  
Edward Campbell, Director, Portland Water Bureau  
Farshad Allahdadi, Bureau of Environmental Services  
Anthony Martin, Bureau of Environmental Services  
Sherri Peterson, Bureau of Environmental Services  
Anthony Locke, City Budget Office  
Aaron Abrams, Bureau of Environmental Services  
Dawn Uchiyama, Director, Bureau of Environmental Services  
Ken Bartocci, Bureau of Environmental Services

#### *Public:*

Carol Cushman, League of Women Voters  
Jim Abrahamson

## **Items Discussed, Action Items, Decisions**

In these notes PWB stands for Portland Water Bureau, BES for the Bureau of Environmental Services, and PUB for the Portland Utility Board.

The [video](#) of the meeting as well as supporting documents can be found here:

<https://www.portland.gov/pub/events/2024/11/5/portland-utility-board-meeting>

In the below notes the **blue timestamp** indicates the approximate place in the video where a particular topic begins as well as providing a link to that portion of the video. For example, **3:45** indicates that this topic begins at approximately 3 minutes and 45 seconds into the video. Closed captioning is available by clicking on the CC symbol in the lower right side of the video tool bar.

The Board shared appreciation and reflections in memory of Bob Sallinger, PUB Voting Member. The Board reviewed and approved the PUB's Annual Report and Work Plan and received a presentation from BES staff regarding the Rate Study Implementation. The PUB's discussion of One Water Engagement was postponed due to limited time available.

### **I. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 3:30 p.m.

### **II. Remembrance of Bob Sallinger, PUB Voting Member [~2:40](#)**

Board staff as well as City leadership offered their remembrance of Bob Sallinger, who passed away suddenly last week. Those present shared appreciation for his contributions to the PUB, City, and Oregon; admiration for his tireless and fierce advocacy, passion, wisdom, and expertise; recognition and grief for the profound loss as individuals as well as to the broader community and statewide environmental movement; memories of his legacy and commitment to honoring the work he strived to advance. Members asked to be informed if there is a way to support his family going forward.

### **III. Disclosure of communications [~19:21](#)**

There were no disclosures.

### **IV. Introduction of new staff [~20:00](#)**

New PUB Coordinator, Jonna Lynn Bransford, was welcomed and introduced to the Board.

### **V. Public Comment [~21:46](#)**

One member of the public on the meeting expressed appreciation for Bob Sallinger’s work and his life and legacy.

There was a written public comment received, which will be sent out to PUB members after the meeting. The community member expressed her concerns about rate increases and impacts of a significant bill increase despite reduction in water usage. That written comment was also sent to PWB, who will also likely follow up. Amy will reply to the community member as well to let her know her comments were received.

**VI. Review & Approval of Minutes ~24:06**

[September 19, 2024 PUB Meeting](#)

[October 17, 2024 PUB Meeting](#)

Minutes were approved as submitted.

**VII. PUB Annual Report and Work Plan ~25:07**

- Review and discussion of annual report and work plan
- Draft was edited with some clarifications from PUB members
- Draft was approved with further minor edits to be completed by PUB staff and PUB Member Karen Williams.

[Vote ~36:41](#) Karen Williams made a motion that staff incorporate final edits and formatting changes with one or two volunteers from PUB for final review. Alexis Rife seconded the motion and then time for final discussion and public comment was offered.

No public comment was offered.

After final discussion, voting members unanimously approved the motion.

Yes: RC, KW, LW, AR, KC, LR, JD

No: none

Abstain: none

Motion passed unanimously.

The final PUB Annual Report and Work Plan submitted to Council is available **online here:**

<https://www.portland.gov/pub/portland-utility-board-reports-letters-and-communications> .

PUB Member indicated that they had some formatting items to discuss with observations about how to coordinate together. PUB Staff indicated they would follow up with them outside of a meeting and share with PUB members the visuals he has prepared. These do not need to be incorporated in the Annual Report that was approved, they can be for future enhancements.

**VIII. BES Rate Study Implementation Update ~46:14**

Staff from BES shared a presentation about the rate study that has been conducted over the past 5 years. Presentation included information about the following topics:

- Description of process & desired outcomes ([~47:45](#))
- Recommendations which were adopted by City Council ([~53:18](#))
  - Changes to rate calculations for sewer & stormwater
  - Overall increase in revenue collected by BES
    - Some smaller homes may see decreases (~13% decrease)
    - Medium sized properties may see moderate increases (~6% increase)
    - Larger properties may see higher increases (~26% increase)
  - Lower cost to connect to sanitary system & update system development charges
  - Clean River Rewards enrollment is increasing
  - Big 6 recommendations ([~1:04:53](#))
- Implementation process and next steps ([~1:05:35](#))
  - Extensive outreach & engagement to clarify the changes
    - Focused engagement with “highly impacted” ratepayers
  - Implementation ([~1:15:37](#)) plans started in late 2023, with July 1, 2024 “go live” date.
  - Plan for first year 07/01/2024 – 06/30/2025 ([~1:22:44](#))
- Opportunities, challenges, lessons learned ([~1:29:25](#))

There was not time at this meeting to engage in discussion with PUB, but BES staff will continue to engage with PUB with opportunities for discussion and Q & A.

A copy of the presentation slides can be found [online here](#).

#### **IX. Announcements [~1:30:48](#)**

Next meeting is November 21 at 11:00am. Potential future topics to be determined, including carry-over on items discussed in this meeting, Budget or Other Priorities.

The meeting adjourned at approximately ~5:05 p.m.