

# Portland Utility Board

Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, 10:00 a.m.  
In person meeting at Columbia Wastewater Treatment Plant  
Meeting #216

## Attendees

### PUB Members

Lauren Rosenkranz, co-chair  
Kyle Chipman, co-chair  
Lorraine Wilson  
Alexis Rife  
Jenny O'Connor  
Darrel Bobb  
Cormac Burke

### Absent

Dr. Myra Khushbakht\*  
Bruk Berhanu\*  
Julia DeGraw\*  
Joanne Johnson, Ex-Officio\*  
*\*Notice of absence provided prior to meeting*

### Public

Tom Liptan  
Len Gervais  
Antionette Gervais

### Staff

Amy Archer-Masters, Portland Utility Board Analyst, City Budget Office  
Jonna Lynn Bransford, Portland Utility Board Coordinator, City Budget Office  
Ting Lu, Environmental Services  
Charissa Rogers, Environmental Services  
Mia Sabanovic, Environmental Services  
Muriel Gueissaz-Tuefel, Environmental Services,  
Joe Dvorak, Environmental Services  
Brian Gomolski, Stantec Contractor  
Anthony Locke, Budget Office  
Ri Sandel, Budget Office  
Louis Gobeo, Budget Office

*Note – other BES staff and Stantec Construction representatives not listed were also present for portions of the tour since this was a site visit to a BES facility.*

## Items Discussed, Action Items, Decisions

### Acronyms & Definitions

In these notes PWB stands for Portland Water Bureau, BES for the Bureau of Environmental Services, BPS for Bureau of Planning & Sustainability, STEP for Secondary Treatment Expansion Program, CBWTP for Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant and PUB for the Portland Utility Board.

### Video Recording

As this was a site visit to a noisy facility, video recording was not attempted and is not available for this meeting. Other supporting documents may be found here:

## Meeting Summary

PUB voting members and 3 additional community members, along with PUB & BES staff gathered together in person to tour BES facilities at the Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant (CBWTP). The focus of the meeting included viewing updates and monitoring progress on Secondary Treatment Enhancement Project (STEP) as well as to provide some background information regarding sewer and stormwater treatment, infrastructure planning and maintenance and projects. This was also an opportunity for PUB members and staff to build relationships in person, setting themselves up for continued collaboration on PUB priorities throughout the fiscal year.

## Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:15am.

## Site Visit Highlights

### Arrival & Introductions

Attendees arrived at the site and gathered in the Mazama room to meet each other and chat over coffee. The group shared brief introductions and a welcome by Interim Director Lu and other BES staff.

### Presentation

BES staff shared a presentation and some brief background regarding the facility and BES services before the tour began.

### Tour

Participants were provided safety gear for the tour, which began around 10:40am. The group walked through a range of the property, viewing some of the construction in progress as well as recently completed secondary clarifiers and multi-use facility with workforce support areas (locker/bathing facilities, kitchen/break and meeting rooms), shop and storage spaces. Participants also viewed aging buildings and construction, aeration and clarifier tanks, electrical substation and biosolids processing areas.

### Lunch, Q & A, and Discussion

PUB members, members of the public, and City staff had lunch together, during which they asked questions, visited socially and discussed their priorities for the coming budget season and for ongoing engagement with utility leaders. In addition to learning more about STEP and non-process facility needs, they also discussed the operations and maintenance work that keeps the plant running 24/7. They also had conversations around workforce development, deferred maintenance, and how the Utilities can better communicate with the public about the value of their work, which often goes unnoticed until problems arise.

Members expressed gratitude for this deeper engagement, especially with staff so closely connected with the work happening on-the-ground.

## Closing

Staff asked the group to convene for a group photo before departing.

**Meeting disbursed at approximately 1:55 pm**

**The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025.**

Possible topics

- Carryover from this meeting
- Others?

Likely future topics

- Budget Development

Potential Future Topics: Carryover from prior meetings, One Water director hiring, Natural Resources Service Delivery, Permitting reorganization update, strategic & equity plans updates. STEP, PCEF updates, filtration update.



*Figure 1 Photo of PUB members, members of the public, BES staff, and CBO staff at the Columbia Blvd Wastewater Treatment Plant on November 21, 2025. Pictured here: Amy Archer-Masters, Tom Liptan, Kyle Chipman, Darrel Bobb, Cormac Burke, Ri Sandel, Jonna Lynn Bransford, Louis Gobeo, Anthony Locke, Alexis Rife, Jenny O'Connor, Len Gervais, Charissa Rogers, Ting Lu, Lauren Rosenkranz, Antoinette Gervais, Lorraine Wilson, & Muriel Gueissaz-Tuefel.*



*Figure 2: PUB members and City staff walking are walking away from the new multi-use facility with workforce support areas, led by Brian Gomolski, a Stantec contractor (in orange). Pictured, left to right: Brian Gomolski, Lauren Rosenkranz, Kyle Chipman, Louise Gobeo, Cormac Burke, Alexis Rife, Len Gervais, & Anthony Locke.*



*Figure 3: PUB members and City staff viewing the new secondary clarifiers that were completed December 2024 - part of STEP improvements increasing their biological treatment capacity and resiliency*



*Figure 4: City staff (Muriel Gueissez-Teufel) describing updates in progress to PUB members viewing ongoing construction the new biosolids processing facility that is replacing the existing building that is failing. Pictured: Ri Sandel, Stantec contractor, Antoinette Gervais, Lorraine Wilson.*



*Figure 5: PUB Members, City staff, & Contractor touring the biosolids processing facility. Pictured from left to right: Darrel Bobb, Anthony Locke, Kyle Chipman, Lauren Rosenkranz, Cormac Burke, Ri Sandel, Construction manager, Brian Gomolski.*