



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Medford Police Department Prescott Room
219 S. Ivy Street, Medford, Oregon 97501

The regular meeting of the Medford Water Commission was called to order at 12:21 p.m. on the above date at the Medford Police Department's Prescott Room, with the following commissioners, staff, and guests present:

Chair David Wright; Commissioners Jason Anderson, John Dailey, and Bob Mylenek. Commissioner Bob Strosser was absent.

General Manager Brad Taylor, Executive Administrative Assistant Amber Furu, Finance Manager Beau Belikoff, HR Manager Tanya Haakinson, Information Technology Manager Kris Stitt, Water Operations Manager Dan Perkins, Water Resources & Customer Service Manager Julie Smitherman

Guest(s): Attorney Mark Bartholomew, Medford City Council Liaison Alternate Garrett West, Austin Hartrampf of Glaziers Architectural Metal & and Glass Workers Local 740

3. Comments from the Audience

Austin Hartrampf, representing Glaziers Union Local 740, raised concerns about the glazing subcontract for the Medford Water Operation Project, stating the selected firm does not currently meet required North American Contractor Certification (NACC) and Architectural Glass and Metal Technician (AGMT) certifications. He emphasized the importance of these third-party certifications for quality assurance and fair contracting, noting that a qualified local contractor was overlooked in favor of a non-certified, out-of-area firm. He requested the Board reconsider the subcontract award to ensure compliance and local benefit. The Board acknowledged the comment and stated the matter would be taken into consideration.

4. Consent Calendar

4.1 Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 2, 2025, as Corrected

4.2 Approval or Correction of the Minutes of the Last Regular Meeting of April 16, 2025

Motion: Approve the Consent Calendar.

Moved by: Mr. Dailey

Seconded by: Mr. Anderson

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

Motion carried and so ordered.

5. Items Removed from Consent Calendar

None.

6. Leadership Team Reports

- Dan Perkins, Operations Manager
 - Reservoir Hatch Replacement - Recent safety upgrades were completed on the access hatches at Stardust and Hillcrest Reservoirs. The original hatches, over 50 years old, had become heavy, difficult to operate, and posed safety risks. They were replaced with custom-fabricated aluminum hatches featuring gas shocks and locking mechanisms to enhance safety, ensure sanitary sealing, and allow for easier access. Each installation costs approximately \$18,000. The update emphasized the importance of these smaller capital improvement projects in maintaining infrastructure and meeting regulatory requirements, including those set by the Oregon Health Authority's sanitary surveys.
- Julie Smitherman, Water Resources & Customer Service Manager
 - Watershed Report – Precipitation levels for the current water year remain above average, with 20.35 inches recorded to date compared to the area's typical 18.5 inches.

However, April saw only half the usual rainfall. Snowpack is tapering off as expected for this time of year and is projected to end near average. Spring flows remain strong, supporting continued use of two full pipelines. Willow Lake is currently full, and no water releases are yet required for irrigation. The Rogue River is flowing at 119% of normal, equating to approximately 1.4 million gallons per minute, with water temperatures rising seasonally. A historical analysis showed fluctuations in springflows over time, with current conditions recovering well from recent drought years. Extended drought periods, such as those in the early 1990s, have occurred before and helped establish Medford Water's efficiency programs. Reservoir levels across the region are high, which benefits irrigation districts and reduces demand on city water. These conditions are expected to support strong system performance heading into the summer months. Forecasts for May through July predict slightly above-average temperatures and below-average precipitation.

- Brad Taylor, General Manager
 - Barnett Pump Station Update - The Barnett Pump Station project is currently in the bidding phase, with bid submissions due next week. If the process stays on track, the contract award is expected to be presented to the Board for approval at the June 4th meeting. This project will provide critical infrastructure to support ongoing growth in southeast Medford and is funded as part of the Board-approved Capital Improvement Plan.
 - Upcoming Board Schedule – May 21 – Budget ; June 4 - Insurance.

7. Propositions and Remarks from the Commissioners

Commissioner Mylenek referenced a recent news segment about rate increases, which he initially believed was related to Medford Water, but it was clarified during the meeting that the report was about the City of Medford's wastewater utility. He expressed concern that the public may confuse the two and assume the increase applies to water service. Mylenek emphasized the need for clear messaging to distinguish Medford Water's role and noted Medford Water's rates are among the lowest in the region and state. He recommended sharing this information more actively to help the public understand the value they receive.

Commissioner Dailey raised a question about the status of the condemnation process for the River Zone Reservoir property. Taylor clarified that the condemnation is still moving forward, with a court date scheduled for September if no resolution is reached beforehand and emphasized that, although the project was removed from the current 10-year financial plan due to funding uncertainty, the need for the reservoir remains. He stressed the importance of acquiring land well in advance of project needs, even in the face of funding challenges.

Commissioner Wright shared updates from a recent lunch meeting with the Mayor and City of Medford officials. Key topics included the potential for a combined utility bill, co-location of a city public works facility, and exploring federal funding partnerships. As part of the discussion, the City raised the idea of coordinating lobbying efforts in Washington, D.C. to strengthen funding opportunities.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business, this meeting adjourned at 1:06 p.m. The proceedings were recorded and are on file along with the complete agenda of this meeting.



Amber Furu
Assistant Clerk of the Commission