



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Robert A. Duff Water Treatment Plant
8301 Table Rock Road, Central Point, Oregon 97502

The regular meeting of the Medford Water Commission was called to order at 12:16 p.m. on the above date at the Medford Police Department's Prescott Room, with the following commissioners, staff, and guests present:

Acting Chair David Wright; Commissioners John Dailey, and Brian Sjothun; Jason Anderson and Bob Mylenek were absent.

General Manager Brad Taylor, Executive Administrative Assistant Amber Furu, Finance Manager Beau Belikoff, HR Manager Tanya Haakinson, Engineering Manager Brian Runyen, Information Technology Manager Kris Stitt, Water Operations Manager Dan Perkins, Water Resources & Customer Service Manager Julie Smitherman, Senior Capital & Special Project Manager Andy Huffman, Watershed Coordinator Arlo Todd, Watershed Specialist Katie Baker, Watershed Intern Claire Alcorn, Water Quality Tech I Kierra Cano, Jacobs Engineering Group Josh Kennedy and Claire Jing

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 2, 2026

4.2 Quarterly Letter to Mayor and Council

Motion: Approve the Consent Calendar

Moved by: Mr. Dailey

Seconded by: Mr. Sjothun

Roll Call: Commissioners Dailey, Sjothun, and Wright voting yes.

Motion carried and so ordered.

5. Items Removed from Consent Calendar

None.

*Out of sequence

7. Resolution No. 2043, A RESOLUTION Awarding and Authorizing the General Manager to Execute a Contract Not-to-Exceed \$400,000, with GM Land and Forest LLC for Ash Willow Logging Services

An overview of the planned Ash Willow forest management work was presented, noting that three units totaling roughly 130 acres within the Big Butte Springs Watershed have been identified for future treatment due to overstocking, heavy white fir presence, and accumulated ladder fuels. The proposed work involves a selective commercial harvest in which individually marked trees would be removed to improve forest health and reduce wildfire risk. The estimated harvest volume is 621 MBF. Three bids were received—Don Hamann, Inc.; Plumley Contracting Co.; and GM Land & Forest LLC—and recommended awarding the contract to GM Land & Forest LLC based on cost and qualifications.

Commissioners asked about the species mix in the units and how removal decisions are made. Smitherman clarified that Lomakatsi, the contractor previously hired for tree-marking work, was responsible for marking individual trees and will oversee the planned treatments. Discussion centered on the priority removal of white fir due to its vulnerability to drought, fire, and disease.

6. Resolution No. 2042, A RESOLUTION Awarding and Authorizing the General Manager to Execute Log Purchase Agreements up to \$500,000 for the Ash Willow Timber Harvest in the Big Butte Springs Watershed

The log sale portion of the Ash Willow project covers the same three stands—114, 117, and 503—which are expected to yield about 621 MBF of merchantable timber. A competitive Invitation to Bid resulted in responses from Murphy Veneer, Boise Cascade, and Wilson Pro Pole, with staff proposing to sell white fir to Murphy Veneer at \$500/MBF, Douglas fir to Boise Cascade at \$815/MBF, and pole-grade tops to Wilson Pro Pole. Smitherman noted that although no mill initially bid on ponderosa pine, mills later indicated they could accept pine at market rates of roughly \$400/MBF. Estimated financials include approximately \$390,000 in revenue and costs of \$250,000 for logger services, \$60,000 for slash disposal, \$35,000 for Lomakatsi oversight, and \$5,000 for timber tax, resulting in an estimated net of about \$40,000 depending on actual harvest volumes and disposal options.

Motion: Approve Resolution 2042 and Resolution 2043.

Moved by: Mr. Dailey

Seconded by: Mr. Sjothun

Roll Call: Commissioners Dailey, Sjothun, and Wright voting yes.

Motion carried and so ordered

Back in sequence

8. Leadership Team Reports

- Dan Perkins, Water Operations Manager
 - A leak was identified in the Delta Waters 16-inch main around 5:30 p.m. on September 15, followed by an immediate assessment and full mobilization of staff and resources. Emergency locates were requested, the supervisor was notified, additional staff were called out, and equipment was mobilized to the site. The leak was initially slowed through valve manipulation to avoid negative pressure issues while crews isolated the area and notified affected customers, ultimately shutting off service to 186 homes before repairs could begin. Excavation revealed a significant failure in the 1974 pipe, and with the line exposed, the operations supervisor determined it was appropriate to install a new 16-inch valve to improve future isolation capabilities. Repair work continued through the night, and service was restored the following morning. Commissioners asked about staffing levels, customer impacts, and the extent of the outage. Perkins confirmed that six staff members and contracted traffic control workers responded, and customers were notified as meters were shut off. Commissioners also discussed the operational improvements gained from installing the new valve, as well as coordination efforts during the overnight repair.
- Brad Taylor, General Manager
 - Upcoming Board Schedule – October 7 - CIP Updates & Annual Budget vs Biennial Budget; October 21 - Bulk Water Filling Station at the Service Center; November 4 & 18 - Annual Cost of Service Evaluation; December 2 - Jackson County/Medford Water Bulk Water Sales Update and Intermediate Water Users Update; December 16 - Annual Audit

9. Propositions and Remarks from the Commissioners

Commissioners discussed the response letter prepared for the City of Medford and coordinated attendance for the City Council meeting that evening to present the letter and address any questions. Staff also provided talking points in anticipation of media interest. Commissioner Wright thanked staff for their work on the response letter. Commissioner Dailey stated that the letter is consistent with the Commission's process and procedures and thanked staff for assembling it. Commissioner Sjothun remarked that the document provides helpful clarity and will serve as a good reference for the City Council.

Motion: Approval of Response Letter to Medford City Council

Moved by: Mr. Dailey

Seconded by: Mr. Sjothun

Roll Call: Commissioners Dailey, Sjothun, and Wright voting yes.

Motion carried and so ordered.

10. Adjourn

There being no further business, this meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m. The proceedings were recorded and are on file along with the complete agenda of this meeting and all presentations from this meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amber Furu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amber" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Furu".

Amber Furu
Assistant Clerk of the Commission