

SOUTH FORK WATER BOARD  
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
**January 8, 2009**

Board Members Present: Alice Norris, Oregon City Mayor, Chair  
Patti Galle, West Linn Mayor,  
Jody Carson, West Linn Councilor  
Daphne Wuest, Oregon City Commissioner  
Scott Burgess, West Linn Councilor  
Rocky Smith, West Linn Councilor

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Present: John Collins, SFWB General Manager

Others Present: Laura A. Schroeder, SFWB Attorney

**General Board Meeting**

**(1) Call to Order**

**Chair Norris** called the meeting of the South Fork Water Board to order at 6:02 p.m.

**(2) Public Comments**-There was none.

**(3) Consent Agenda** - Approval of minutes of the November 13, 2008 Board Meeting.

**Board Member Wuest moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Board Member Carson seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED 4-0-1. Ayes: Carson, Wuest, Norris; Nays: None; Abstention: Burgess, Smith, Galle.**

**(4) Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2009**

**Board Member Carson nominated Patti Galle as the 2009 Chair of the SFWB. Board Member Wuest seconded the nomination, which passed unanimously.**

**Board Member Wuest nominated Alice Norris as the 2009 Vice-Chair of the SFWB. Board Member Carson seconded the nomination, which passed unanimously.**

**(5) Regional Water Providers Consortium Representatives**

**John Collins, SFWB General Manager** welcomed Mayor Patti Galle and Rocky Smith as new Board members. He explained that the SFWB participated in the Regional Water Providers Consortium (Consortium), comprised of about 24 agencies who met three times per year.

- Because Consortium meetings conflicted with Oregon City's City Commission meeting schedule, he recommended that South Fork's primary representative be from West Linn, and secondary representative be from Oregon City, so each city was represented and received information from the Consortium.

- He had raised the issue about meeting conflict several times, but changes were difficult with 24 agencies to accommodate.

**Board Member Wuest** offered to continue as the alternate, but was frustrated because she would never be able to attend the meetings and suggested nominating someone who could.

**Vice-Chair Norris** moved to appoint **Chair Galle** and **Board Member Carson** as the **SFWB representatives to the Consortium**. **Rocky Smith** seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(6) **Business from the Manager**

(a) **Reservoir Construction Update**

**John Collins** reported that about a six-week delay had been experienced due to the weather, but the project was still about 85% complete and on schedule without a change order. Currently, the project was undergoing a six- or seven-day testing period to run a leak test and bacteriological disinfection in the processing.

- The reservoir was expected to be online next Monday, January 12, 2009, weather permitting and absent any forecasted storm events. In a few weeks, the SFWB plant would go offline for two or three weeks in order to tap into the clear well system under the plant.
- Once that project was completed, only the landscaping, sprinklers, etc, remained, though these were the biggest areas of concern for change orders and cost overruns. He was pretty confident these would remain within budget. The goal was to have a \$4 million project completed without a change order.
- Sidewalk planning would be done through the Master Plan, which would identify areas to be improved, buildings to be built, sidewalk improvements, ADA triggers, etc. to be completed over the next few years. The Master Plan update would establish that land use processes would be done through the City of Oregon City.

(b) **Oregon Water Utilities Council OWUC update**

**John Collins** explained that the Board asked that South Fork's manager be proactive on committees and work with the American Water Works Association (AWWA) in different committees and he was currently the OWUC Chair.

- He noted the letter sent by the OWUC to the legislative representatives serving South Fork and its member jurisdictions, as well as a copy of an advertisement running in *The Washington Post*. AWWA had done a good job getting word out that it wanted money for infrastructure needs.
- He would be going to Washington, D.C. the week of March 23rd to lobby for infrastructure funding and understood everyone was working to get a piece of that pie.
  - The OWUC had been told that shovel-ready projects would have priority for funding. South Fork was working with CH2M Hill to create a short description for installing a transmission line from the intake station to the plant. The transmission line would cost about \$1.5 million, and could be shovel-ready in 180 days. If any infrastructure money became available, South Fork would at least be prepared to be in line for a piece of it.
  - Different opinions existed among those in charge of planning or a utility, but essentially, any anticipated federal funding would depend on the State and the mechanism for distributing infrastructure funds.

- He explained that airfare and hotel expenses for his Washington D.C. trip would be reimbursed from AWWA. The only expense to South Fork was for his time away.

**Vice-Chair Norris** was glad to have a specific project as others who lobbied could also promote the South Fork project as well. She would be asking the City Commission if she could lobby for transportation projects in Oregon City during the week of March 12, 2009.

- She requested that a one-pager be created about the project for her to give Washington D.C. legislators, along with Oregon City's transportation one-pager, when she met with them.

**Mr. Collins** replied that a one-pager could be prepared. OWUC already submitted a packet of projects. Until the deliverables were received from CH2MHill, nothing would be shovel-ready, but the transmission line project would be easy to put on paper.

- He confirmed that South Fork certainly worked through special districts, but had not specifically asked to get a project before the legislature. However, the OWUC was working to create a list of projects, which would be discussed at the January 22, 2009 meeting. He hoped to provide a better report following that meeting.

**Board Member Burgess** suggested having State senators and representatives send a letter if South Fork's project got in the mix to be considered for funding. Whether the money involved pass-through federal funds or a bonding authority, etc., South Fork needed to promote the project, even among its own members, possibly through Speaker Hunt.

- He inquired if Special Districts were putting something together.

**Mr. Collins** explained that Amanda Rich no longer worked for Special Districts, and Willie Tiffany had left the League, so two new lobbyists were needed. On January 22, OWUC would also seek direction from the League in the Special District.

**Board Member Burgess** stated that South Fork could also promote the project through its Chair and Vice-Chair, or through the cities on behalf of South Fork or the water system.

- He was not sure the Board should wait for OWUC to prepare its packet that included the project. The project became obviously an individual issue as far as members working for projects within their own districts.

**Vice-Chair Norris** questioned whether Mr. Collins would break confidence with OWUC partners by pulling South Fork's project out of the OWUC packet and lobbying it separately.

- She was not positive about competition between South Fork's cities, as it would depend on how the packet [one-pager] was put together, since each City had its own projects to strongly promote. The South Fork project could be added to the list, since water and transportation were separate matters.

**Mr. Collins** believed any redundancy was good as far as if legislators in Washington D.C. received letters from local representatives as well as South Fork's Chair.

**Board Member Burgess** agreed, adding that unless it violated something with the League or Special Districts, he recommended submitting a letter from the Chair and Vice-Chair on behalf of South Fork that stated the project was ready to go, would serve x number of people, that South Fork had contracts with the Clackamas River Water District, etc.

**Mr. Collins** introduced David Wimmer, Oregon City and SFWB Finance Director, adding that he would be heavily involved in South Fork's business over the next few months.

**(7) Business from the Board**

**Mr. Collins** responded to the questions from the Board as follows:

- The November 13, 2008 minutes discussed the enhanced costs of temperature, chemicals, etc. needed to address lead entering the system from specific homes. Upgrading the pipes in homes where lead was found was not an option because those homes would no longer be considered Tier 1 homes and Federal law required South Fork to replace each with another Tier I home. Once South Fork began replacing plumbing, it would lead to the replacement of everyone's plumbing.
- He clarified that the environmental statement referenced with regard to the Master Plan update in the November 13<sup>th</sup> minutes was simply a general statement of the Board's philosophy and commitment to environmental practices.
- He updated the Board about South Fork's water conditions following the two recent major snow events, which caused considerable challenges for South Fork and its staff.
  - Ice interrupted the plant's ability to communicate with its pump stations, etc. off site. Staff worked very hard, doubling shifts to ensure that drinking water quality was maintained.
    - Staff discussed next steps and options to prepare for similar future events. Maintenance suggested running heat trace tape on the actual antennas. Taurus Controls was asked to provide a recommendation for doing so. The system had been in since 1996 and this was the first time such interruption had occurred. Staff would do a risk assessment to weigh whether the expense was warranted.
    - The rare event required staff to return to basic, old-fashion scientific practices to make necessary chemical adjustments to maintain water purity versus using computer chips and radio technologies, which had failed to function.
  - Last week, the Clackamas River flooded Estacada and reached the second highest flood stage level he had seen in Oregon City during his 24 years at South Fork. The intake was about five feet less than that of the 1996 Flood.
    - The level of turbidity dictated the level at which the plant would be unable to function properly. Turbidity was in excess of 1200 units (ntu), and again, South Fork's staff did a great job. Normal turbidity is 2 to 5 ntu, decreasing to 1 ntu or less during the summer, enabling South Fork to make almost ultra pure water.
  - The storm events also provided the opportunity to see how well the new membrane technology functioned at the North Clackamas County Water Commission.
    - Opinions differed regarding how well the membrane system ultimately functioned during the event, but South Fork would have good information about the system's performance, which might be a deciding factor. Water had to be purified in any event from the Clackamas River, so the information would be helpful.

**(8) Adjourn Meeting**

The November 13, 2008 meeting of the South Fork Water Board adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

**(9) Executive Session –Adjourn regular meeting and convene Executive Session.**

- (A) To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(f)
- (B) To consider information concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(h)

Respectfully Submitted,

By Paula Pinyerd, ABC Transcription Services, Inc.  
for John Collins, SFWB General Manager