

# Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 16, 2020 - 5:30 p.m.

Zoom Webinar

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**In attendance:** Chair-Zach Mulholland, Vice-Chair- Julia Johnson, Howard Saxion, Art Farley, Laura Allen, Louisa de Heer, Karyn Kaplan, Mtima Richardson, Kelsey Zlevor

**Staff:** Chelsea Clinton, Samantha Roberts

**Absent:** Drew Johnson, Doug Edwards, Councilor Emily Semple

## **Call to Order:**

Chair Mulholland called the meeting to order.

Chair Mulholland called for a motion to approve the agenda or request for discussion.

## **Action Item: Approve Agenda**

Moved: Julia Johnson

Seconded: Laura Allen

Vote: All in favor

Abstain:

Chair Mulholland called for a motion to approve July minutes or request for discussion.

## **Action Item: Approved July Minutes**

Moved: Julia Johnson

Seconded: Louisa De Heer

Vote: All in favor

Abstain:

Chair Mulholland called for a motion to approve August minutes or request for discussion.

## **Action Item: Approved August Minutes**

Moved: Julia Johnson

Seconded: Louisa De Heer

Vote: All in favor

Abstain: Howard Saxion

## **Public Comment**

Jim Ball made comments about adding concrete steps to adapting climate change.

## **Commissioner Response to Public Comment**

Laura Allen expressed appreciation for Jim and his comments.

## **Presentation: EWEB Electrification Study**

EWEB Staff provided a presentation to the Commission about the preliminary results of the agency's Fall 2020 Electrification Study.

Commissioner Allen inquired of EWEB Staff as to why solar PV was not included in the study. EWEB Staff responded that the study is preliminary and covers broad area of interests. Mentioned that they will look at Solar uses at later studies.

Commissioner Saxion inquired about why electrification of industrial sector vehicles wasn't not included. EWEB Staff mentioned it is because it is very difficult to regulate industry and is too difficult to make plans given the needs of industry. Commissioner Saxion commented on EWEB Staff response. Commissioner Saxion inquired also as to why heavy-duty vehicle electrification also wasn't included. EWEB Staff responded that the timing of the study did not allow for full inquiry including industrial loads. EWEB Staff further clarified use of the scope of the preliminary report, and provided clarification about difference between light and heavy duty vehicles and electrification.

Commissioner de Heer inquired about what EWEB's options are related to shopping for power within the grid, including considerations about damage to hydro-power and power sources. EWEB Staff addressed concerns about risk to grid supply. Commission de Heer also discussed use low and high efficiency appliances in homes, inquired about how EWEB has learned about community adoption and what needs are still left and what funding is available to continue support for converting to higher efficiency appliances. EWEB Staff clarified that the type of information has not been studied yet but continues to learn and develop options.

Chair Mulholland clarified what the study's assumptions of efficiency mean. EWEB Staff provided clarification. Commissioner Mulholland requested clarity as to what conversion entailed within the study. EWEB staff provided an answer.

Commissioner Farley asked questions about the supply of power, knowing this would be covered moving into the second phase. He instead inquired about how EWEB funds conversion to electrification. EWEB Staff provided clarification about this process. Commissioner Farley inquired if they sell excess supply to the market to cover the costs to fund program. EWEB Staff continued to clarify the process of supply and demand given the needs of programming and organizational needs.

Commissioner Allen inquired about the forecast of supply with natural hazards in mind given hydro-power, and expressed appreciation this is a latter topic. EWEB Staff confirmed this is not in scope of the preliminary results, but could be asked of staff to study for phase 2 based on EWEB Board of Commissioners direction.

Chair Mulholland asked EWEB Staff to discuss how the percentage of natural gas and percentage of vehicle emissions were covered in the study and preliminary results, specifically commercially, excluding industrial and freight considerations as they were out of scope. EWEB Staff clarified in Eugene that less than 45% of power served to industrial customers is of natural gas. Chair Mulholland made additional inquiries about this.

Chair Mulholland asked questions submitted by the public including questions regarding emissions from natural gas, inclusion of the University of Oregon in the study, service life for automobiles, rooftop solar options, where can the community go to find more information about the process, 5 year plan to adjust

for shortened supply of energy from closing of coal plants and potential brown outs, and additional questions regarding solar energy. EWEB Staff provided clarification for these questions.

Commissioner Saxion discussed pricing electricity based on when power is being used, using Smart Meters, and if there is a way to communicate financial savings to change behavior of power use during daily peak power demand.

Chair Mulholland inquired how EWEB is measuring what is included for residential, industrial and commercial emissions for natural gas, EVs, etc. and if there is a way to draw parallels in data about what is included or not included. He also suggested ways to get this information to City Council.

Commissioner J. Johnson discussed work with committee for outreach and education and how the commission could help communicate information about when to use power and inquired if EWEB could provide resources to communicate this information. EWEB Staff commented on use of report for the community and work on narrowing technical report to be communicated to the community.

EWEB Staff provided an update about recent fire emergency in EWEB territory.

### **Complete Annual Report**

Staff assisted commissioners in completing writing and approving the FY20 Annual Report.

### **Finalize Work Plan for FY21**

Chair Mulholland called for a motion to approve the Commissions FY21 Work Plan.

### **Action item: Approval of FY21 Work Plan**

Motion: Howard Saxion

Second: Art Farley

Vote: All in favor

Abstain:

### **Committee Updates**

Commissioner Kaplan proposed a committee on Waste Reduction.

Commission de Heer expressed appreciation for the committee, especially related to plastics waste during the pandemic. She discussed questions related to the committee.

Chair Mulholland discussed history of waste reduction committees and work to carry forward. He called for a motion to approve the Waste Reduction Committee.

### **Action item: Approval of Waste Reduction Committee Proposal**

Motion: Karyn Kaplan

Second: Art Farley

Vote: All in Favor

Abstain:

Commissioner Kaplan will initiate the committee. Commissioners de Heer and Farley volunteered to work on this committee.

### **Commissioner and Staff Updates**

Staff inquired if the Commission wanted to move forward with a previous proposal to limit meetings to two hours. The Commission discussed this and settled on moving forward with two-hour meetings with some exceptions.

Commissioner Allen inquired about a survey the Commission could fill out regarding potential future presentations.

Staff also inquired about adding Commissioner bios to the Commission's website as well as a check in about outstanding committee proposals.

Chair Mulholland clarified the update for the Rules Revision committee.

### **Closing**

Commissioner Mulholland adjourned the meeting.