**Oregon Joint Use Association**

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

June 23, 2022 – McMenamins Hotel Oregon

310 NE Evans St, McMinnville, Oregon

and Via Zoom

President Terry Blanc called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. A quorum was present:

**Present**:

Terry Blanc, President

Pam Vaughan, Secretary

Jennifer Butler\*

Josh Crain\*

Eric Griffeth\*

Jeff Kent\*

Scott Rosenbalm

Stuart Sloan

**Not Present**:

Sam Ackley, Vice President

Brant Wolf

Gary Lee

**Guests:**

Jerry Donovan, Standards Committee\*

Tom Jorgenson\* PGE

Tim Kouri, PGE,\*

Alex Chaney, OPUC

Leon Grumbo OPUC

Jennifer, Jolly, Oregon Municipal Utilities

Jami Breckenridge, EWEB\*

*\*via Zoom*

**Staff**:

Genoa Ingram

Laureal Williams

**President’s Comments**

President Terry Blanc asked Board members and guests to introduce themselves. He then reviewed the agenda, noting that staffing contract would be deferred until the next meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

The Board Members reviewed the minutes of March 17, 2022, meeting.

**MOTION**: Moved by Scott Rosenbalm and seconded by Eric Griffeth to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2022, meeting as corrected. **Motion passed**.

**Treasurer’s Report**

*Year-to-Date Financials* – Laureal Williams reviewed the year-to-date financial reports as of May 31.

**MOTION**: Moved by Scott Rosenbalm and seconded by Stuart Sloan to accept the financial report as presented. **Motion passed**.

**Industry Updates**

*Update: AR 638 Rulemaking* – President Terry Blanc reported that the OJUA has filed two sets of comments into the docket thus far, both in 2021 and 2022. There was also a statement read into the record on behalf of the OJUA. The new regulations will be impactful to member companies with regard to new regulations relating to wildfire mitigation, inspection requirements and timeframes, and prioritization of repairs and detailed inspections. The final opportunity for comment is June 30 and final rules are expected by July 12. The Executive Committee has been very engaged in the most recent redline version circulated on June 10. Three items were identified as areas of concern by the OJUA in that version:

* Under the definition section, the OJUA is suggesting that “accepted good practice” replace “good utility practice”;
* Section 18 of Division 24 relating to prohibition of conductors being attached to trees,
* Section 18 (7) relating to detailed inspection cycled alignment for consumer owned utilities

Alternative language for the latter two issues is being drafted and will be circulated to the OJUA Board of Directors early next week. If approved, comments will be filed by June 29.

President Blanc clarified that, with regard to tree attachments, the Executive Committee reviewed 860 024 0018 (3) which references utility-owned poles. The intent of the rule appears to be to prohibit tree attachments in high fire risk zones. The OJUA is proposing a more straightforward definition using the NESC as guidance and state that utility conductor attachment to trees shall be avoided. The second issue, 860 024 0018(7) relating to detailed inspections, references detailed inspection cycle alignment and proposes a date of December 31, 2027. The OJUA is proposing that language be removed.

**New Business** President Blanc Board noted two Board member vacancies:

* Scott Rosenbalm, McMinnville Power and Light, who has been engaged with OJUA for many years and very active at the committee and Board level is retiring. Jamie Breckenridge has expressed interest in filling that role.
* Brooke Sisco, Columbia River Peoples Utility District, has transitioned to a new role in her company and has stepped away from the OJUA Board. A previous Board member, Tom McGowan, has expressed interest in assuming the PUD representative role.

Board members expressed support for both candidates. President Blanc also expressed the need to address membership on the Executive Committee.

**MOTION:** Moved by Stuart Sloan and seconded by Scott Rosenbalm to approve both candidates to serve on the Board, Jamie Breckenridge representing Municipal Electrics and Tom McGowan representing PUDs. **Motion passed**.

**MOTION:** Moved by Scott Rosenbalm and seconded by Stuart Sloan to approve Tom McGowan to serve as Treasurer, and Jamie Breckenridge to serve “At Large” on the Executive Committee. **Motion passed**.

**Committee Reports**

*Executive Committee* – President Blanc reported on the following Executive Committee activities:

* Staffing Contract: Deferred
* The Annual Meeting which will be held in person this September 15 & 16 at the Best Western Agate Beach Inn in Newport. Terry discussed some of the highlights of the Annual Meeting agenda. Leon Grumbo reported that the Administrator position vacated by Lori Koho is still open. Michael Grant is currently Acting Administrator.
* The OJUA will be back in Newport for 2023 as part of a multi-year booking commitment to avoid cancellation penalties accrued during COVID.
* Refund Policy: The Board reviewed a draft policy #113 relating to refunds for event cancellations.

**MOTION**: Moved by Jeff Kent and seconded by Eric Griffeth to adopt the Policy 113 as presented. **Motion passed**.

*Conflict Resolution Committee* – Jeff Kent recapped a conflict submitted by FXT, operating as Visor, relating to use of conduits. The Committee determined that the request was not under the purview of the OJUA. The complainant was contacted regarding areas of applicable conflicts and referred back to the OPUC staff. The Board discussed a possible expansion of the OJUA’s jurisdiction, which would require a statutory change.

*P & E Committee* – Laureal Williams recapped the summary of evaluations generated by the OJUA Spring Training event. The number of evaluations returned were high and, overall, were positive. For the coming event, the Committee is proposing returning to a three-day hybrid event at the Columbia Riverfront, April 25-27. The Committee is asking consensus for the hybrid option which would include increased A/V charges to provide for a videographer on site to allow for the live streaming option. ***By consensus***, the Board approved the hybrid approach.

*Inspection Correction Efficiency/Mapping Committee* – Co-Chair Tom Jorgenson reported that the Mapping Committee has been merged with the ICE Committee. Inspection/Correction met in March and the next meeting is scheduled for August. The Joint Corrections partnership options have been completed for purposes of the Best Practices Standards Manual. No new agenda items are currently in place. Co-Chair Jennifer Butler suggested tackling joint transfers and joint inspections. Stuart Sloan suggested examining how smaller utilities might take advantage of a collaborative approach to those issues. Stuart also noted that the materials such as fiberglass poles have added to the complexity of pole transfers.

*Standards Committee* – Jerry Donovan reported that the Committee met May 11 and the next meeting is scheduled for July 13. The OJUA Best Practices Manual is adding a tenth chapter relating to wildfire mitigation. Communications is well represented on the Committee; however, PacifiCorp is currently not represented. Jerry announced his impending retirement and recommended Robb Robison as Chair.

**Adjourn**

There was no further business to conduct and the meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.