

# Oregon Joint Use Association Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2025  
OJUA Office, Salem

President Sam Ackley called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. A quorum was present:

## **Board Members Present:**

Sam Ackley, President  
Pam Vaughan, Vice President\*  
Terry Blanc, Immed. Past President\*  
Adam Deshon, Director\*  
Carson Horton, Secretary\*  
Eric Griffeth, Director\*  
Lisa Walker, Director  
Gary Lee, Director  
Josh Crain, Treasurer  
Brian Richardson, Director\*

## **Board Members Absent:**

Jason Berning, Director

## **Guests:**

Leon Grumbo, OPUC Safety Staff\*  
Tom Jorgenson, ICE Committee Co-Chair\*  
Talina Wood, Central Electric Cooperative\*  
Carrie Graham, Comcast  
Mughan Simoneaux, City of Portland  
Ron Bilodeau, Osmose  
Joel Carlson, DJ's Electrical\*  
Nick Batz, Oregon Broadband Office\*  
Troy Schake, Univerus/Varrasset\*  
Chris Barley, P & E Committee Chair\*  
Heide Caswell, OPUC\*  
PJ Armstrong, Minet Fiber\*

## **Staff:**

Genoa Ingram\*  
Mandy Grauerholz  
Laureal Williams

*\*via Zoom*

## **Special Order of Business - Board Member Appointments**

**MOTION:** Moved by Gary Lee and seconded by Lisa Walker to appoint Carrie Graham of Comcast as the cable representative on the board through 2027, filling the position vacated by James Casson. **Motion passed.**

## **Industry Updates**

Nick Batz provided an update from the Oregon Broadband office's deployment award programs, noting award offers that have been made and those that are in progress. Nick noted that there has been no update on any federal impact on the programs, although they are likely to occur.

Heide Caswell noted that safety staff have responded to feedback provided at the five-year check-in and are working to incorporate that into the audit process. Overall staff reviewing the records a lot more instead of relying on just field observations. Staff is also striving to provide all pole occupants with as complete a dataset of audit results. Heide reported that the PUC has made a full transition in NESC and vegetation audits to a mobile/electronic platform. Gary Lee asked if the state's wildfire hazard designation mapping challenges the utility wildfire mitigation plans; Heide indicated that it does not. Each electrical utility still needs to have its own designations.

Ron Bilodeau reviewed a draft of an article that Osmose is preparing to publish spotlighting OJUA as a "collaborative best practices" organization. Ron asked the board to read the article and let him know of any revisions/updates, particularly with regard to historical context and the association's mission. Ron plans to submit the final draft at the executive committee meeting before publication.

## Approval of Minutes

The Board Members reviewed the minutes of December 19, 2024, meeting.

**MOTION:** Moved by Gary Lee and seconded by Pam Vaughan to approve the December 19, 2024, meeting minutes as amended to correct the spelling of Vaughan. **Motion passed.**

## Treasurer's Report

**Year-to-Date Financials** Josh Crain reviewed the year-to-date financial statements through February 28, 2025, and the bank statements for February 2025. Of note, a check for the initial deposit into the Prime Alliance bank account has been reported missing; a stop payment has been issued. Subsequently, staff initiated an ACH deposit process to move the funds to the Prime Alliance account. Josh requested a motion to approve an additional ACH deposit of \$41,000 into the Prime Alliance account.

**MOTION:** Moved by Josh Crain and seconded by Gary Lee to approve an ACH transfer of \$41,000 from the Chase checking account into the Prime Alliance savings account. **Motion passed.**

**MOTION:** Moved by Gary Lee and seconded by Carson Horton to approve the financial report as presented. **Motion passed.**

Josh proposed amending the current policy regarding check signing (Policy #115), adding clarity regarding authorized signers for the Chase and Prime Alliance bank accounts and ACH transactions. He will work with staff to draft proposed revisions to the policy.

## Committee Reports

**Executive Committee** Pam Vaughan provided an update on the committee's activities, including program planning for the 2025 Annual Meeting and a recent informational meeting with PUC Chair Decker.

**Inspection/Correction Committee/Mapping Subcommittee** Eric Griffeth and Tom Jorgenson gave a brief update on the committee's activities. The committee is finalizing the manual, which they are hoping to bring forward to the Executive Committee soon.

**Member Services and Resolution Committee** Sam Ackley provided an update on the committee's recent activity. Dustin Bohlman from Charter has agreed to serve as committee chair and will be spending a little time reviewing historical documents and activities. The group is working toward development of a "checklist" for new joint use participants in Oregon.

**Publicity & Education Committee** Chris Barley noted the committee is finalizing the program agenda, including a run through of the trivia game later today. Currently 194 individuals are registered to attend in person; 44 are registered to attend virtually. Both numbers exceed registration for this time last year. The board discussed options for recognizing new organizations, following up with vendors, and assessing interest in continuing the two-day format.

**Standards Committee** Adam Deshon provided a review of the committee's efforts. The group is considering the addition of a chapter related to emerging technologies such as EV chargers. Temporary storage is also a potential topic; the group is discussing what best practice looks like with regard to storage. Consumers Power recently made a presentation to the committee focusing on its use of drones

for vegetation management. The committee, at the request of the Executive Committee, is investigating the possibility of a presentation on PUPI arms at the Annual Meeting.

### **Old Business**

OPUC Commissioner Update –Sam Ackley reported that Chair Decker has contacted him to determine if the OJUA would be interested in helping to organize and serve on a panel at the upcoming National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) – Western Region’s conference in Portland, June 1-4. The panel would address rural broadband roll out and electric safety capacity. Sam offered to follow up on behalf of the Association. It was the consensus of the board that he do so.

### **New Business**

Lisa Walker reported that during a recent conference call hosted by the Washington state broadband office one of the participants indicated that pole owners were refusing joint use access because of wildfire concerns. She asked if anyone on the board has heard anything similar? Sam Ackley noted that in California there have been heightened standards with regard to pole loading, but nothing along the lines of what was reported on the Washington call.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:17 p.m. The next board meeting is scheduled for June 5 at the Hunter Fiber offices in McMinnville.