

**Oregon Joint Use Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

December 19, 2024
OJUA Office, Salem

President Sam Ackley called the meeting to order at 10:06 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
Jeff Kent, Director
Gary Lee, Director
Jason Berning, Director*
Josh Crain, Treasurer*
Brant Wolf, Director*

Board Members Absent:

James Casson, Comcast

Guests:

Tom McGowan, Audit Committee Chair
Jennifer Joly, OMEU*
Leon Grumbo, OPUC Safety Staff
Stephanie Johnston, Northern Wasco PUD
Lisa Walker, PacifiCorp
Brian Richardson, Pioneer
Tom Jorgenson, ICE Committee Co-Chair*
Talina Wood, Central Electric Cooperative*

Staff:

Genoa Ingram
Mandy Grauerholz
Laureal Williams

**via Zoom*

Special Order of Business - Board Member Appointments

MOTION: Moved by Gary Lee and seconded by Terry Blanc to appoint Lisa Walker of PacifiCorp as the Large Utility representative on the board through 2025, filling the position soon to be vacated by Jeff Kent. **Motion passed.**

MOTION: Moved by Jeff Kent and seconded by Eric Griffeth to appoint Brian Richardson of Pioneer Connect as the Small Telecommunications representative on the board through 2027, filling the position soon to be vacated by Brant Wolf. **Motion passed.**

President Sam Ackley noted that three board positions are expiring: Jason Berning, Municipal Electric Utility representative; James Casson, Cable representative; and Terry Blanc, Large Utility representative. Genoa Ingram reported that all have expressed interest in remaining on the board. Gary Lee observed that James Casson may be retiring from Comcast in January.

Approval of Minutes

The Board Members reviewed the minutes of September 11, 2024, meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Jeff Kent and seconded by Adam Deshon to approve the September 11, 2024, meeting minutes as amended. **Motion passed.**

Treasurer's Report

Year-to-Date Financials Treasurer Josh Crain reviewed the year-to-date financials, noting that the Association will be ending the year with a deficit as previously noted.

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

2025 Proposed Budget Staff reviewed a draft of the proposed budget, noting projected increases in Spring Training revenues and a proposed increase in annual membership dues.

MOTION: Moved by Terry Blanc and seconded by Gary Lee to approve the proposed member dues increase and 2025 budget as presented. **Motion passed.**

The Board directed staff to request updated membership level status information (i.e., number of poles owned or pole contacts in Oregon) on the 2025 renewal statements.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee Vice President Pam Vaughn reviewed the Committee’s activities for the year, including budget review, planning for the Annual Meeting, approving recommendations to revise the Spring Training, and reviewing the committees’ work products.

Inspection/Correction Committee/Mapping Subcommittee Co-Chair Tom Jorgenson noted that the committee’s most recent working meeting was October. Working on the Joint Corrections manual document – committee members have individual access to the manual so that they could make contributions and suggested revisions. Next meeting is in January. Anticipates one or two more meetings to complete the manual. Eric Griffeth praised the determined leadership that Tom has provided for the Committee.

Member Services and Resolution Committee Chair Jeff Kent noted that the Committee’s meeting was at the end of October where the group began outlining the chapters for the “Getting Started” Guide. Writing assignments for the individual chapters have been made. Noting his impending retirement, Jeff indicated no successor has been identified at this time and requested assistance from the Board to identify one; Sam Ackley indicated that he will review the committee roster to assist with the process. Jeff indicated that he has made Lisa Walker an owner of the team worksite, so that access to the Committee’s work products will continue. Jeff noted that the PacifiCorp team has developed a “how to do business” packet for broadband deployment in Washington and Idaho. These documents could be modified for use in Oregon.

Publicity & Education Committee Mandy Grauerholz provided an update on the Committee’s activities, noting that the program schedule has been finalized, including supplemental presentations on broadband funding and deployment, pole inspection technologies, and line construction practices. Attendee and sponsor registration for the event is anticipated to open in January.

Standards Committee Genoa Ingram provided a summary of the Committee’s work, including recent enhancements to the manual and the tri-fold. The Committee has discussed the possibility of providing identification markers for guys. She also noted that Cody Mabee discovered and reported an error in the current NESC manual. Leon Grumbo noted that he has recently referred a number of contractors to the OJUA website to reference the manual, particularly with regard to aerial storage best practices.

Industry Updates

President Sam Ackley recognized the contributions of Tom McGowan, Brant Wolf, and Jeff Kent to the OJUA and thank them for their many years of service and leadership to the Association.

The Board discussed some of the challenges and issues that are developing in coordinating with contractors unfamiliar with working in Oregon. The recent award of broadband grant funds seems to be increasing these issues.

Terry Blanc reported that PGE has been working on its 2025 wildfire mitigation plans, noting that there will be changes to the high fire risk zones which can impact attaching entities. PGE will be sending notifications to participating entities in early January. Jeff Kent indicated that PacifiCorp will not be updating its high fire risk zones.

Leon Grumbo indicated that PUC safety staff audits will include an information request, as well as an inspection records request for a random selection of poles. Terry Blanc noted that the specific requirement to provide correction dates for each of the poles identified in the requests has generated a lot of extra work for the PGE team as that information is not readily available.

Old Business

OPUC Maps and Records Request Response – Leon Grumbo indicated that the PUC has enjoyed a good response to its maps and records request this year. The deadline for meeting the request is January 15, 2025. Staff member Alex Chaney has been working with the maps and following up with those who have submitted them.

OPUC Commissioner Meeting – Sam Ackley reported that the meeting with OPUC Commission Chair Decker is set for January 9; invitations will be issued soon, along with an agenda. Sam will confirm that the meeting will be available for both in-person and virtual attendance.

2024 Annual Meeting Recap – Mandy Grauerholz noted that the Executive Committee has reviewed the evaluation results. A full written report was provided in today's meeting packet.

New Business

Election of Officers – Sam Ackley noted that the current slate of officers has indicated their willingness to continue in their positions for another year: Sam Ackley, President; Pam Vaughan, Vice President; Josh Crain, Treasurer; Carson Horton, Secretary; and Terry Blanc, Immediate Past President.

MOTION: Moved by Gary and seconded by Eric Griffeth to re-appoint the current slate of officers for 2025. **Motion passed.**

2025 Meeting Schedule – Mandy Grauerholz provided a copy of the 2025 Board and Committee meeting schedule.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:17 p.m.