

Oregon Joint Use Association Standards Committee

Minutes—May 14, 2026
Via Zoom and in-person

Chair Commerford called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A quorum was present:

Present:

Craig Commerford, PGE, Co-Chair
Chris Barley, Oregon Aerial
Joshua Lightner, Central Lincoln PUD
Cody Mabee, PacifiCorp (calling in as 6058)
Stacey McIntyre, Ziply
Sarah Monroe, Central Lincoln PUD
Robb Robison, OPUC
Wayne Ronke, Wodon LLC

Staff:

Genoa Ingram

Guests:

Pete Kalnins

Not Present/Excused:

Chad Altherr, PGE
Chad Beam, LS Networks
Jeff Carlson, CPI
Adam Deshon, Salem Electric
Leon Grumbo, OPUC
Jerry Pomeroy, Ziply
Brandon Runyon, Ziply
Adrian Smith, CPI
Paul Townsend, Ziply
Jesse Keyes, Gary Lee & Assoc.
David Wood, Ziply

Approval of Minutes The Committee reviewed the minutes of the March 19, 2026, meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Cody Mabee and seconded by Wayne Ronke to approve the March 19, 2026, minutes as presented. **Motion passed.**

Announcements

Chair Commerford acknowledged that former Co-Chair Kalnins was in transition and would likely return to the industry in the near future. Discussions regarding appointment of a Co-Chair have been tabled pending the outcome of Pete's future employment. Chair Commerford also announced that OJUA President Terry Blanc is transitioning out of joint use and his future participation with OJUA is unclear. Immediate Past President Sam Ackley will assume the position of President.

Old Business

Overlashing Document Robb Roberson confirmed that Leon Grumbo had approved distribution of the overlashing document and Robb will send it out by end of day tomorrow.

Work Group Discussion: Chapter 11 – Emerging Technologies Sara Monroe noted that Adam Deshon would not be in attendance today but that she and Cody Mabee are prepared to review the proposed chapter and respond to questions. Chair Commerford shared his screen so the Committee could review and comment on the draft Chapter 11. Discussion items included the following:

- NESC C2-2023 – In response to a question, Sarah noted that NESC C2-2023 references description of the IEEE website that references practical safeguarding of workers during installation and maintenance of equipment on poles. She added that the subcommittee felt it represented a key point. Chair Commerford noted that some of the key points relate to regulatory framework and there appears to be a way to pare this section down by combining/consolidating the two sections. Sarah agreed to take notes on suggested edits.

- Process for Inclusion of Chapter 11 to Standards Manual – Staff explained that, following review by the Standards Committee, the Committee will forward the Chapter to the Executive Committee for approval and inclusion.
- Digital Imaging – Pete commended the digital imaging language (11.2) which he said is inclusive of what most companies are striving for and is used as a best practice for employees and contractors with regard to photos. Also under 11.2, under “Suggested Best Practices”, Pete Kalnins suggested adding language references “*full pole photo showing ground line to top of pole*”. There was consensus to add that language. Wayne Ronke offered to forward language on photos. Craig also suggested capturing upstream and downstream imaging, either in this section or elsewhere. It was also suggested that during pre-construction there should be accurate photos with project progression in mind or, if there is an issue, take additional photos at that time. This may even lead to an additional chapter. Cody explained that the subcommittee had discussed more in-depth language but had concluded that they didn’t want to make the chapter overly lengthy. Sarah pointed out that the subcommittee had attempted to address photo imaging both under “PUC Violations” and under “Other Considerations” (4th bullet, referencing line photos). She asked if additional wording was needed. Craig suggested that Best Practices seems to focus on the pole; adding an additional bullet relating to “Mid-Span” or “Conditions in General” may cover it. Sarah also expressed appreciation to PUC safety staff for participating with the Subcommittee. Robb Robison also suggested addressing file size for photos. Craig responded that PGE has data caps. He will make inquiry as to what those limits are.
- EV Chargers – Craig questioned Cody whether PacifiCorp had a robust EV program. Cody replied that there are a few but he has very little field experience with them. Sarah added that Chad Altherr had been the only resource on this issue so additional feedback is welcome. The Committee shared experiences about public resistance to pole-mounted chargers and the challenges of implementing them, particularly regarding NESC and NEC code requirements. They agreed to make formatting edits to the document, including adding spaces between sections (such as NEC/EVSC Domain), and decided to reference the "current edition" of NESC rather than specifying a version number. Pete praised the Subcommittee on the EV Charger section.
- Figure – Sarah asked if the size of the figure at the end of 11.3 was adequate. All agreed that it was fine as is.
- GIS Data – Sarah explained that the Subcommittee attempted to integrate to PUC standards without referencing PUC documents. She asked if there was language included that should not be a GIS standard. Craig responded that the language was congruent with PGE standards. No changes needed. Under “Considerations”, there was discussion whether companies use GIS order forms. Sarah confirmed that Central Lincoln does. There was discussion regarding proprietary information associated with GIS data. It was suggested that formatting be addressed under the second bullet.
- Artificial Intelligence in Joint Use – Sarah acknowledged that the AI is constantly changing and the current language may be moved elsewhere in the Manual. Pete highlighted how AI is being explored to speed up permitting processes, particularly with BEAD funding. The group agreed that AI should be used as a tool to augment human work rather than replace it, citing a recent incident where an AI response was poorly handled by a government agency. Robb shared a cautionary tale about an unvetted AI response that caused issues, while Craig and Wayne discussed how AI-generated content can sometimes be easily identified due to its articulate nature. The Committee discussed the use of AI in various workflows, particularly in generating technical data and reports. Wayne suggested implementing a standard requiring

disclosure when AI is used in work processes, which Sarah agreed to add to the suggestions for implementation section. The discussion highlighted the importance of human oversight and verification of AI-generated content, with Pete noting that expert review remains crucial even when using AI tools. Robb confirmed that from the PUC's perspective, they have not implemented AI in their safety reports and welcome feedback on any potential errors.

The Committee discussed the challenges and limitations of using AI tools in their work, particularly regarding data accuracy and validation. Wayne shared examples of AI-generated data errors and emphasized the importance of human verification. The team reviewed suggestions for implementing AI as a decision support tool, agreeing that it should be paired with experienced utility staff for validation. They also noted that while AI can be useful for certain tasks like GO95 load cases, its accuracy varies across different applications and AI engines.

Members expressed satisfaction with Chapter 11 overall and planned to review action items from a previous meeting at a future date.

OJUA Abbreviations Wayne re-sent the OJUA abbreviations for members to review.

Action Item Reassignments The Committee reshuffled some of the action items, pending Pete's return.

Recap of Action Items

- Robb: Send out the overloading and removal of abandoned lines document to the team by end of day tomorrow for review.
- Wayne: Send out the OJUA abbreviations document via email to the group for review and feedback.
- Cody: Take ownership of the action item to draft verbiage and photos for down guy tail lengths (previously assigned to Josh and Pete), and collaborate with Josh as needed.
- Wayne: Draft language for anchor placement considerations (including 5-foot/10-foot standards and coordination with pole owner standards), referencing previous meeting discussion.
- Cody: Compile and draft insulator (including fish rod and Johnny Ball) placement standards, referencing NESC and company practices, and share with group for review.
- Craig: Run Section 11.2 (Digital Imaging) by PGE field staff to collect their comments/feedback and report back to the group.
- Sarah (and subcommittee): Update Chapter 11 based on meeting feedback (e.g., consolidate regulatory framework, clarify NESC version references, add disclosure for AI use, address photo requirements, etc.) and circulate revised document to committee for escalation/approval.
- All committee members: Review the OJUA abbreviations document (once resent by Wayne/Genoa) and provide any additions or removals via email.
- Genoa: Send Zoom recording link of this meeting to Sarah to assist with note-taking.
- All committee members: Review and propose alternative meeting dates for September (to avoid conflict with Annual Meeting), and report back by next meeting.

New Business

Cody Mabee noted that PacifiCorp no longer uses Johnny ball insulators in favor of fish rods. He questioned whether insulators encompassed both. That was confirmed.

Future Meeting Dates

Future meetings are scheduled as follows (9 am – 10:30, 2nd Thurs every other month (typically)

- July 9
- September 10 (Conflicts with Annual Meeting)
- November 12

Adjournment

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.