



QLife Board Meeting - December Minutes

Wasco County

Dec 7, 2023 at 12:00 PM PST

@ 511 Washington St., The Dalles, OR 97058

Attendance

Present:

Members: John Amery (remote), Kristen Campbell (remote), Scott Hege, Matthew Klebes, Stephanie Krell, Dale Lepper, Shayla Maki, Mike Middleton, Scott Randall, Tyler Stone, Lee Weinstein (remote)

Guests: Phil Garrett (remote), Jason Hartmann (remote), Tom McGowan, Keith Mobley (remote), Bruce Patterson, Todd Reeves (remote), Travis Stenhjem (remote)

I. Call to Order

President Hege calls the meeting to order at 12:02 PM.

II. Approval of Agenda

There are no changes to the Agenda.

Motion:

Motion moved by Scott Randall and motion seconded by Scott Hege. Motion passes unanimously.

III. Consent Agenda

There are no changes to the Consent Agenda.

A. September 28, 2023 Minutes

Motion:

Motion moved by Scott Hege and motion seconded by Scott Randall. Motion passes unanimously.

IV. Discussion Items

A. EntryPoint Update

Mr. Klebes introduces Mr. Patterson and informs the Board that EntryPoint's interim draft report is included in the packet. Mr. Patterson explains that his team was asked to take a look at QLife's current situation he presents the draft report and his recommendations included in the packet. He asks the Board to provide him feedback if they wish for additional details to be included in the final report.

Mr. Hege mentions the Amon, ID model and asks if his recommendation is the one taken by Amon. Mr. Patterson confirms that it is and that Key Bank can provide examples of other entities with similar systems.

Mr. Patterson dives into the different operational models outlined in the packet. EntryPoint performed some high level modeling but they suggest QLife perform more. Mr. Patterson strongly recommends engaging with a financial advisor because of potential legal obligations. He also adds that electronics for the system have a life expectancy of about 20 to 30 years with some electronics replacement but it is very stable and runs a long time. Mr. Klebes asks about the risk of wildfire to the infrastructure and wonders if other entities have taken that into account. Mr. Patterson responds that he has not seen that but recommends the county discuss that with their liability provider. Mr. Patterson stresses the importance of messaging to the public when a consensus has been made by the Board. Mr. Klebes remarks that EntryPoint will finish up the report and bring it back to the Board to discuss action in an executive session. Mr. Hege asks what the highest level of input from the Board Mr. Patterson would like to see. He responds that he is not opposed to doing more financial feasibility research and explains that it is best if it is around one model.

B. Administration & Project Updates (Presenters: Matthew Klebes, John Amery, ADP)

Mr. Klebes informs the Board that he has continued discussions with the Avangrid solar project and ODOT for the bridge crossing. He is monitoring the engagement and development of Lone Pine, which is in the works and believes we should take advantage of the open trenches and other potential opportunities as projects develop. He may be coming back to the Board soon with a request to place infrastructure in those trenches.

Mr. Hege asks if we have basic infrastructure in the proximity and Mr. Klebes confirms that we do and his recommendation is to maximize our infrastructure footprint there.

C. BAT Update (Presenters: Lee Weinstein)

1. BEAD Program - Initial Proposal Volume II

Mr. Hartmann informs the Board that the Oregon BEAD projects will be centered around school districts that serve 92% of underserved residents. President Weinstein adds that the comment period for funding closes on Saturday. We have already provided input on behalf of QLife. Mr. Hartmann notes that there is no new information on BTAP.

Mr. Hege brings up the challenge process of FCC maps and remarks that his sense was that challenges come from entities, not individuals. He wonders if there are areas in the county that QLife should be challenging. Mr. Hartmann's understanding is that it is individuals or ISPs that can challenge the maps. Mr. Patterson adds that individuals can challenge for their address but it requires a certain amount of personal information that goes on the record. He recommends going to the broadband office to discuss challenges.

Mr. Hege notes that under objectives in the BEAD proposal that they are prioritizing serving 100% for underserved that fall below 25/3. Mr. Hartmann says that they are giving high preference to anyone serving fiber and those with a high match rate. Mr. Hege asks if there is a cost component and Mr. Hartmann responds that cost is a factor in the rubric. Mr. Hege asks what anchor institutions are and Mr. Hartmann explains that they are identified on the FCC map as fire stations, hospitals, schools, libraries, etc.

Mr. Stone remarks that on an advisory call he attended he heard conflicting funding streams between BEAD, ARPA and BTAP and if you receive funding for one, you cannot receive funding for others. Mr. Hartmann confirms that if you qualify for one, you won't qualify for the others.

D. Aristo Technical Management Report (Presenters: John Amery)

Mr. Amery informs the Board that the Port beta project was awarded to RBC and has been a little delayed due to a right of entry that is taking longer than expected. Other than that, everything is looking good. The Jefferson reroute is almost complete. North Sky is deconstructing the old path and we also asked them to look at an NJUNS ticket while they are here. We are asking having discussions with the developers of Lone Pine to work into their work schedule.

V. Finance (Presenters: Mike Middleton)

Mr. Middleton informs the Board that he will be moving QLife finance responsibilities over to Shayla Maki beginning today. Ms. Maki presents the finance report included in the packet and adds that we are in the fifth month of the fiscal year. Interest is not yet posted for November and one customer has four outstanding invoices, which staff is working on. Transfers are complete in the Capital fund. Mr. Hege asks about the miscellaneous receipt and Ms. Maki explains that it is for hospital reimbursement for USAC funding. Maupin transfers will be completed close to the end of the fiscal year. So far, all funds are in a good position and patterns are starting to show with no major changes expected. Mr. Klebes notes that ADP is a newer consultant so we are tracking line items and expenses. Technical management and legal counsel lines are also being tracked since we have had an increase in work.

VI. Executive Session

Executive Session ORS 192.660 (2)(n) To discuss information about review or approval of programs relating to the security of telecommunications systems.
There is no need for an executive session.

Mr. McGowan asks what kind of messaging the Board would like him to bring back to the PUD. Mr. Klebes notes that he and Roger Kline have been in touch and can share the EntryPoint report.

The Board agrees to have an interim meeting for an executive session reviewing one of the three models presented today.

The meeting adjourns at 1:57 PM.