

QLife Board Meeting - July Minutes

Thursday, July 25, 2024 at 12:00 PM PDT
@ 511 Washington St., The Dalles, OR 97058

Attendance

Present:

Members: John Amery, Scott Hege, Matthew Klebes, Roger Kline, Stephanie Krell, Shayla Maki, Scott Randall, Rod Runyon, Lee Weinstein

Absent:

Members: Kristen Campbell, Mike Middleton, Tyler Stone
Guests: Andrew Daniels, Nancy Werner

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion:

Motion moved by Scott Hege and motion seconded by Roger Kline. The motion passes unanimously.

III. Consent Agenda

Mr. Hege brings up the previous discussion with Oregon broadband office and wonders if it happened yet. President Weinstein says that he is planning to meet with them after today's meeting and Mr. Klebes adds that he has an administrative update later in the meeting.

A. June 6, 2024 & June 28, 2024 Minutes

 [QLife Board Meeting - June 6, 2024 Minutes.pdf](#)

 [QLife Board Meeting - June 28, 2024 Minutes.pdf](#)

Motion:

Motion moved by Roger Kline and motion seconded by Scott Randall. The motion passes unanimously.

IV. Action Items

A. Consideration for authorizing a new party to join the IGA (Presenters: Matthew Klebes, Nancy Werner)

Mr. Klebes informs the Board that he has been exploring various concepts and having conversations around the future of QLife. We have a longstanding relationship and partnership with Northern Wasco PUD with shared objectives and constituents. Prior to today's meeting, four attorneys representing each entity have reviewed the voluntary withdraw agreement in the packet and is presented to the Board for consideration. This will allow a period of time to

solidify the relationship and any changes to the IGA. If there are any issues within 135 days, the PUD will voluntarily withdraw. Mr. Klebes is looking for a unanimous approval from the Board. Mr. Kline adds that he also spoke with the ethics commission who was favorable that he is not in conflict to vote today as the general manager for the PUD.

Mr. Runyon wonders what considerations we would be looking at when bringing in a new partner to the IGA. Mr. Klebes explains that this vote will give us direction to dig into those components to figure out whether it is monetary, services rendered as a partner, etc. The work done over the next 135 day will determine that and it may come with a restructuring of the Board. Mr. Klebes adds that the benefit of the PUD as a partner is staff capacity. The PUD has discussed bringing on extra staff and maybe a full-time position to support QLife.

Mr. Hege remarks that we have been pleased with the relationship to this point and were hoping for years that the PUD would eventually become a partner. The PUD was the first entity that envisioned fiber in our community. President Weinstein shares Mr. Hege's perspective.

Mr. Kline states that he is happy to be involved to bring fiber to every resident that would like it and will post the Executive Director job advertisement on the PUD website. Mr. Amery also adds that he is looking forward to working with the PUD and is pleased with this development.

 [Order #24-06 PUD Membership.pdf](#)

Motion:

Motion moved by Scott Hege and motion seconded by Rod Runyon. The motion passes unanimously.

V. Discussion Items

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

- BEAD Funding Update
- Rally Networks

Mr. Klebes notes that there are materials in the packet from Rally Networks and wanted to bring it to the attention of the Board. We have not been tracking the development too closely. Mr. Runyon asks if they are competition or do we feel "the more the merrier" when accomplishing fiber builds. Mr. Amery responds that they are competition for grant funding opportunities, however, their end goals are different from QLife's. They typically charge higher rates because of their business model.

Mr. Hege remarks that he reached out to Rally to foster a relationship and Jonathan Cannon said that he would value the opportunity to work with us. President Weinstein adds that they have not been proactively reaching out to us so it would be good to touch base with them every so often.

Mr. Klebes informs the Board that he met with the Oregon broadband office and their feedback on our previous grant application came down to the details we provided on how we would use the funds and we did not adequately provide staff positions in their opinion. The new application targets different school districts and we are doing research and re-engaged with RISI to provide additional grant services for the upcoming opportunity. We would have to provide an application that offers fiber to every single address regardless of how much it would

cost. The broadband office understands it is not feasible, but would like it included as part of the project.

Mr. Hege asks if we have a design in place for every home and Mr. Amery responds that it is an AI model and does not include Wasco Electric poles. He adds that prequalification is the biggest challenge and the model we currently pitch is not what they are looking to fund.

Mr. Hege remarks that the broadband office said that every county would receive funding for broadband projects and we were cut out of the first round so he wants to see us receive funding this time around. President Weinstein agrees and adds that he wants the office to take notice of us so that we qualify for funding.

 [Rally Networks Wasco County OR Fiber High-Speed Internet Build.pdf](#)

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

Mr. Amery informs the Board that the Port Beta project is not quite complete but there is a lot of interest once it is connected.

He also informs the Board of the repaired damage to our fiber and we were able to get it fixed quickly. RBC, who is working on the Port project, had crews in town and were able to perform the repair. Mr. Hege asks who paid for the repair and Mr. Amery responds that we are still working through that.

 [20240723 Aristo Technical Management Report.pdf](#)

VI. Finance (Presenters: Shayla Maki)

A. June Financial Analysis

Ms. Maki presents the financial report in the packet. The Operations fund has increased across the board. Accounts receivables is outdated in the report and this morning is down to \$21,000 for over 30 days. Late fees have improved receivables.

The Capital fund has two USAC payments in the miscellaneous account line for school district funding.

The Maupin fund has communicated with ISPs and were able to get franchise fees caught up through the third quarter.

 [Qlife Financial Analysis 2024-06 June Unaudited Pre-Close.docx](#)

 [FY24 2024-06 June Financials - Preclose.pdf](#)

VII. Executive Session (Presenters: Matthew Klebes, Nancy Werner)

Executive Session ORS 192.660(2)(f) To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection. ORS 192.660(2)(g) To consider preliminary negotiations involving matters of trade or commerce in which the governing body is in competition with governing bodies in other states or