

# 2025 CWS Board of Directors Work Session

## Minutes

Friday, February 7, 2025, 9:00 AM

Mallard Conference Center at Durham Water Resource Recovery Center  
16060 SW 85th Avenue, Tigard, Ore., 97224



**Board Members Present:** Chair Kathryn Harrington  
Nafisa Fai, District 1  
Pam Treece, District 2  
Jason Snider, District 3  
Jerry Willey, District 4

**CWS Staff Present:** Diane Taniguchi-Dennis, Chief Executive Officer  
Elizabeth Edwards, Chief of Staff  
Kathy Leader, Chief Financial Officer  
Joe Gall, Chief Utility Relations Officer  
Rick Shanley, Chief Engineer & Water Technology Officer  
Jack Liang, Chief Business Operations Officer  
Caroline Lobdell, General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer  
Brad Anderson, Senior Assistant Legal Counsel  
Tracy Rainey, Government Relations Manager  
Anh Le, Management Analyst  
Katie Ragsdale, Executive Assistant  
Jody Newcomer, Technical Editor  
Todd Sanna, Information Technology Technician

**External presenters:** Pete Evich, Van Scoyoc Associates  
Kristina Surfus, National Association of Clean Water Agencies

**Member of the public:** Dale Feik

*Note: The meeting recording began partway through the first topic because of technical difficulties.*

## I. CONVENE MEETING

1. 2024 and 2025 Focus Topics Planning  
*Diane Taniguchi-Dennis, Chief Executive Officer*

Reviewed the focus topics for 2025.

Taniguchi-Dennis provided overview of CWS focus topics for 2025 and actions taken in 2024.

Chair Harrington requested additional detail and updated formatting, including topic summaries.

Taniguchi-Dennis acknowledged feedback and CWS will make requested improvements.

2. 2025 Legislative Overview (13:22)  
*Tracy Rainey, CWS Government Relations Manager*  
*Pete Evich, from Van Scoyoc Associates*  
*Kristina Surfus, from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA)*

Rainey, Evich, and Surfus presented the [2025 Legislative Overview PowerPoint](#)

### Issues discussed

Director Willey applauded CWS for implementing the Essentials program for newly elected officials. Additional discussion on building relationships.

Rainey reviewed legislative priorities at the state level and bills CWS is monitoring. Discussion touched on water reuse, industrial symbiosis, water workforce, biosolids, PFAS, housing, and funding for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Evich provided an overview of the congressional makeup and recent federal actions and appointments.

Chair Harrington asked if Edwards and Rainey received the external communication weekly email that lists the Board's external meetings for the current and following week.

Discussion included new Executive Orders, local impacts of pausing or freezing federal funding, and Safety of Dams funding. Evich said CWS is monitoring budget reconciliation measures and annual appropriations.

Chair Harrington asked how CWS might be threatened by deregulation or dismantling the federal workforce and the relationship with the watershed permit and the Clean Water Act.

Surfus provided an overview on NACWA and its legislative priorities.

Chair Harrington asked if NACWA is reaching out to new members of congress. Surfus shared that NACWA sends introduction letters to new members and meets for further discussion.

Director Treece and Director Snider commented on the importance of receiving regular updates and insight about when outreach or advocacy would be useful.

Rainey provided an update on the Scoggins Dam project. CWS has frequent check-ins with the Bureau of Reclamation and Oregon's federal congressional delegation.

Director Snider asked which local partners have responsibility for water quality in the repayment analysis.

Taniguchi-Dennis described CWS's strategy to plan for Scoggins repayment. Payments will be due when construction is complete; CWS can negotiate a debt service agreement.

Chair Harrington said the CWS unappropriated fund balance is needed to accommodate the cost share for Scoggins Dam.

*Note: "Dir. Fai was excused for Washington County business during 2025 Legislative Overview and returned for afternoon sessions."*

**II. LUNCH BREAK – 12:20 p.m.**

**RECONVENED – 1:00 p.m.**

3. Board Compensation and Travel 2:55:05  
*Elizabeth Edwards, Chief of Staff*

Elizabeth presented the [Board Compensation and Travel PowerPoint](#)

**Issues discussed**

CWS currently pays Washington County about 5% of salaries for Board members and key staff per an intergovernmental agreement to cover work done on behalf of CWS.

A salary commission sets salaries for Board members. The written reports don't reference CWS.

Several Board members suggested the salary commission could consider work related to CWS when setting salaries.

Board members discussed the percentage of time they devote to CWS work.

ORS 198.180 and 198.190 set a compensation cap of \$50 a day for members of special district governing boards.

Statute last updated in 1990s.

Edwards said CWS is planning to budget \$65,000 for directors' salaries for Fiscal Year 2025/26, pending outcome of Salary Commission.

CWS recommended one or two Board members travel to Washington D.C. for Water Week Policy Fly-In in April. Chair Harrington and Director Willey volunteered to represent CWS.

CWS recommended two or three Board members travel to Chicago for WEFTEC in the fall. Director Fai and Director Snider indicated interested.

4. Adjournment and move to executive session per ORS 192.660(2)(f)(h) - Exempt Records and Potential Litigation

Move to executive session

Motion: Fai

Second: Snider

Vote: 5-0

**IV. ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION – 1:45 p.m.**