



## MINUTES

QLife Regular Board Meeting  
Thursday, August 25, 2022  
Harding House Conference Room  
and Google Hangouts

**Call to Order** President Weinstein calls the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

**Roll Call** Lee Weinstein, Scott Hege, Rod Runyon, Dale Lepper, John Amery, Joshua Pool, Tom Reeves, Kristen Campbell, Stephanie Krell, Matthew Klebes and Mike Middleton.

President Weinstein reviews the QLife Strategic Plan and reminds every one of the goals and mission. Mr. Hege asks if there has been any progress on our mission items and Mr. Klebes responds that there has and suggests we add a review of our strategic plan to a future meeting to discuss what has moved forward, what has been paused, etc.

Mr. Hege points to goal #4, and states that we can achieve that goal every day and wonders how we can proactively do that. President Weinstein responds that we presented the plan to the Wasco County Board of County Commissioners and The Dalles City Council.

### **Changes to the Agenda**

There are no changes to the agenda.

***[[Mr. Hege moves to approve the agenda. Mr. Runyon seconds the motion, which passes unanimously.]]***

### **Approval of the Consent Agenda**

***[[Mr. Hege moves to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Runyon seconds the motion, which passes unanimously.]]***

### **Finance Report**

#### **Financial Report, Analysis and Reconciliation**

Mr. Middleton presents the July finance report to the board included in the packet and remarks that this is reflective of the first month of the fiscal year. He notes that it appears as if revenues are down but it is due to the beginning fund balance and interest not yet being recorded as revenue. Accounts receivables outstanding payments have been decreased and expenditures are well within budgetary expectations.

No revenues are shown in the Capital Fund yet since the transfers have not been entered. There have been very few expenditures.

The Maupin Fund shows funds in the Charges for Service account line, which are franchise fees from April, May and June and will need to be moved back to FY22. Another \$5,400 arrived in August, which puts this fund ahead of budget.

### **Discussion Items**

#### **BAT Update**

President Weinstein informs the Board that Carrie Pipinich has taken the month off and the BAT has not met in the interim. The meeting in September will a Gorge-wide symposium. The broadband survey from MCEDD is still out in the field and has been posted to various Facebook groups. Additionally, an op-ed ran in the Columbia Gorge News. There was not a lot of feedback but it was good exposure.

## **Grant Updates**

Mr. Klebes informs the Board that the NTIA grant opportunity that staff had been exploring has a very short turn around window. In preparation for the grant, we leveraged RISI resources and met with WEC and the PUD. It was a good introduction around doing a project together in the future. We came to the conclusion that we could not put forward a competitive grant application for this opportunity but want to continue discussions for future opportunities.

There is a capital grant that the state is applying to for federal funds. If they are successful, they will spin up their own program regionally.

Mr. Hege remarks that last year we discussed the billions of dollars available and the expectation was that money would be flowing but we still have not received any funding. He wonders if we should resubmit our application from last year for this year's NTIA program. Mr. Klebes responds that we still have good QLife data that we are using during these partnership discussions but a big improvement would be having make-ready costs estimated from WEC and the PUD. Additionally, if they agreed to share the cost, it would benefit us in being better prepared to submit grant applications.

Mr. Lepper asks if they would have to pay the labor costs of putting together those estimates and Mr. Klebes says that he would prefer they do and has mentioned it in conversations but it has not happened as a result of their conversations. Additionally, Mr. Amery and Mr. McNeely have spent time looking at project routes and producing products in hopes that we receive grant dollars at some point.

Mr. Hege wonders how much work we can do ahead of time to be prepared. Mr. Klebes states that the Maupin, Tygh Valley, Wamic, Pine Hollow and Mosier runs are as ready as they can be.

Mr. Hege states that Blue Mountain Networks was a big part of the match for last year's NTIA grant but Mr. Klebes responds that the criteria this year did not require a private partner. Mr. Amery adds that this grant will likely be utilized by commercial entities that are already planning to do projects and now have the funds.

Mr. Hege says that he is going back to D.C. in a few weeks and if there is something the push, it is a good opportunity to do so. President Weinstein reminds everyone that the Infrastructure Act will be ongoing for five years.

## **Administration Updates**

Mr. Klebes informs the Board that the Jefferson Street construction drawings are complete and permits were submitted and approved by the PUD. There is one final make-ready that we are awaiting from Charter.

Klindt Drive drawings are expected to be complete soon.

District 21 fielding is complete, permits are in progress and drawings are also expected in a couple of weeks.

Mr. Hege asks how things are going with Mr. Klebes in his new role and remaining on as QLife Administrator. Mr. Klebes remarks that it has been three months and he has been very busy but has continued with our regular staff meeting. He is working on the city reorganization, which he hopes will increase his bandwidth and carve out more time for QLife.

## **Aristo Technical Management Report**

Mr. Amery presents his technical report to the Board and states that the Jefferson Street damage has been submitted to the PUD. He reminds the Board of a fire the previous week and says he went to the site during the event but does not believe any of our fiber was damaged. Mr. Amery reviews the photos of the fire with the Board and Mr. Runyon asks if he shared the pictures with the construction crew. Mr. Amery said he has not but that he could follow up with them.

## **Oregon Telecommunications Conference**

Ms. Krell reminds the Board of the Oregon Telecommunication Conference dates and asks if anyone is interested in attending. President Weinstein says that he is willing to go if no one else can attend. Ms. Krell asks if we want an exhibitor space and the Board confirms that they would like that presence.

The meeting is adjourned at 12:50 PM

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is set for September 29, 2022.

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These minutes were approved by the QLife Board on September 29, 2022.

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Lee Weinstein, President