QLife Board Meeting - August 27, 2026 Minutes

Wasco County
8/27/2026 12:00 PMPDT
@ NWCPUD Board Room, 2345 River Road., The Dalles OR 97058 and online meet.google.com/yxk-jrga-cxf

Attendance

Present:
Members: Ben Agre, Lana Egbert (remote), Scott Hege, Greg Johnson, Matthew Klebes, Roger Kline (remote), Liz Lance, Shayla Maki, Rod Runyon, Tyler Stone, Chris Walker (remote), Lee Weinstein, Nancy Werner (remote), Lisa Wilson

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:01pm.

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion:
Motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion moved by Greg Johnson and motion seconded by Scott Hege. Motion passed unanimously. Weinstein: Yes; Klebes: Yes; Hege: Yes; Stone: Yes; Kline: Yes; Johnson: Yes; Runyon: Yes

III. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes of Prior Meeting

QLife Board Meeting - July 23, 2026 Minutes.pdf

Motion:
Motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion moved by Tyler Stone and motion seconded by Greg Johnson. Motion passed unanimously. Weinstein: Yes; Klebes: Yes; Hege: Yes; Stone: Yes; Kline: Yes; Johnson: Yes; Runyon: Yes

IV. Public Comment

This time is intended to invite any member of the public to provide an update on ongoing projects related to delivering broadband access in the region. Maximum 5 minutes per participant.

- Mr. Walker of NWCPUD introduced Robert Kirby and Jason Pfister who will be working on Broadband activities with NWCPUD.
- No further public comment was received.

V. Discussion Items

A. Administration & Project Updates (Presenters: Liz Lance)

- **Local Broadband Expansion Updates**
  - **QLife-Funded Development in The Dalles**
    - Planning & Permitting Stage for ~2,750+ homes and businesses in The Dalles.
    - City of The Dalles QLife Colo Lease complete - see memo
    - Learn more at qlife.net/getfiber
  - **BEAD-Funded Development in Wasco County**
    - Northern Wasco County School District
      - Stimulus Broadband, a Nevada-based rural fiber provider has agreed to deliver fiber to 924 locations.
    - Dufur School District
      - Awarded to Starlink, each funded location will be eligible to receive Starlink hardware twice over the ten-year interest period.
    - South Wasco County School District
      - Awarded to Starlink, each funded location will be eligible to receive Starlink hardware twice over the ten-year interest period.
    - All contracts with the Oregon Broadband Office are due to be signed by September 18th. Awardees have 4-years from their contract date to deliver the project in full.

- **Additional Administrative Updates**
  - Lease Update for Basement of City Hall Complete

- **MCEDD & BAT Update**
  - Next Meeting TBA

- **QLife in the News**
  - **Since Last Meeting**
    - The Dalles Chamber - Community Affairs - QLife Presentation - August 6
    - Fiber broadband coming to the Dalles, Q-Life says by Rodger Nichols for Columbia Gorge News - August 11
    - Uplift Local Coverage of July Board Meeting by Documenter Amelia Fiore - July 25
    - Wasco County Fair Sponsorship - Event Canceled due to Grasshopper Fire, Social Media Coverage
  - **Coming Up**
    - The Dalles Kiwanis Club - September 17
    - The Dalles Lions Club - October 27
    - The Dalles Rotary - September 23

- **Oregon Connections Telecommunications Conference** October 21-22 in Hood River - Register now!

- **In Process/Coming Soon!**
  - Public Contracting and Purchasing Policy
  - Updated, Condensed RFP for Branding & Marketing Support

- USDA Broadband Technical Assistance Grant Reimbursement Processing
- FY26 Financial Audit (Wasco County Finance Team & Clear Trails CPAs)

MEMO and Lease RE_ City of The Dalles Basement Lease.pdf

B. Network Deployment and Operations Report (Presenters: Chris Walker)

Chris Walker from Northern Wasco County People's Utility District presented the monthly network operations report. The update included a summary of system performance, uptime, maintenance activities, incident response, service interruptions if any, and ongoing infrastructure work.
Mr. Walker noted the construction RFP will be delayed one-month due to a change in RFP approach

Network Deployment and Operations Report August 2026.pdf

VI. Finance Update

A. Prior Month Financial Analysis

The QLife finance team presented the monthly financial summary, including an overview of revenues, expenditures, fund balances, and budget-to-actual performance. The report highlighted key trends, material variances, capital spending activity, and any significant financial considerations affecting current or future operations.

- Mr. Agre and Ms. Wilson presented the financial analysis and noted further updates as NWCPUD takes on this task from Wasco County.

QLife Financial Analysis July 2026.pdf

VII. Action Items (Presenters: Liz Lance)

A. City of The Dalles Franchise Agreement

The board reviewed the proposed Telecommunications Franchise Agreement between QLife and the City of The Dalles, including changes from the historical franchise structure, financial and operational implications, insurance and contractor requirements, and remaining implementation considerations. The Board discussed the agreement and considered approval for execution, subject to final legal review and resolution of any nonmaterial administrative changes.

- Multiple board members noted the 7% fee as a significant increase.
- Mrs. Werner provided information on why different industries pay different franchise fees, focusing on Cable Companies and The Cable Act.
- Mr. Runyon noted a potential conflict due to his role as a Counselor with the City of The Dalles. Mr. Kara, the City's Attorney provided guidance that Mr. Runyon and Mr. Klebes' do not have a conflict of interest and may vote on this item.
- Mr. Kline noted that NWCPUD will seek cost recovery for any additional costs incurred as required to support QLife under this franchise agreement, including insurance requirements.

MEMO RE_ City of The Dalles Franchise Agreement_Updated.pdf

QLife City of The Dalles Franchise Agreement_signature copy.pdf

Resolution 26-13 Franchise Agreement City of The Dalles.pdf

Motion:

Motion to approve Resolution 26-13 Franchise Agreement with the City of The Dalles.

Motion moved by Roger Kline and motion seconded by Scott Hege. Motion passed. Weinstein: Yes; Klebes: Yes; Hege: Yes; Stone: Yes; Kline: Yes; Johnson: Yes; Runyon: No

VIII. 5-Minute Break

IX. Executive Session

The QLife Board will now meet in executive session pursuant to:

- ORS 192.660(2)(f) To consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection.
- ORS 192.660(2)(n) To discuss information about review or approval of programs relating to the security of telecommunications systems.

Representatives of the news media and designated staff shall be allowed to attend the executive session. All other members of the audience are asked to leave the room. Representatives of the news media are specifically directed not to report on or otherwise disclose any of the deliberations during the executive session, except to state the general subject of the session as previously announced. No decision may be made in executive session. At the end of the executive session, we will return to open session and welcome the audience back into the room.

- The meeting entered executive session at 1:15pm.

X. Return to Public Session

The meeting returned to public session at 2:06pm.

XI. Action Items

- No action items were presented.

XII. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:07pm.