QLife Board Meeting - September 24, 2026

Minutes

Wasco County
9/24/2026 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, Greg Johnson, Matthew Klebes, Roger Kline, Liz Lance, Rod Runyon, Chris Walker, Lee Weinstein, Nancy Werner (remote), Lisa Wilson
Guests: Jeff Justesen, Lisa Wilson

Absent:
Members: Scott Hege, Tyler Stone

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 Rod Runyon and motion seconded by Roger Kline. Motion passed unanimously. Weinstein: Yes; Klebes: Yes; Hege: Absent; Stone: Absent; Kline: Yes; Johnson: Yes; Runyon: Yes

III. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes of Prior Meeting

Mr. Kline noted one spelling correction to the meeting minutes.

Motion:
Motion to approve the agenda as amended.

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

- Jeff Justesen, Wasco County Commissioner joined the meeting and introduced himself.
- All other board and staff members introduced themselves.

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.
    - 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. Contract signed!
    - Dufur School District - Starlink
    - South Wasco County School District - Starlink

- **Additional Administrative Updates**
  - Bond Required for City of The Dalles Franchise Agreement Complete, Franchise Agreement Pending Signature

- **QLife in the News**
  - **Since Last Meeting**
    - Uplift Local Coverage of August Board Meeting by Swen Carlson - July 25
    - Columbia Gorge News Article by Swen Carlson (same as Uplift Local Article)
    - The Dalles Kiwanis Club - September 17
    - The Dalles Rotary - September 23
  - **Coming Up**
    - The Dalles Lions Club - October 27

- **Gorgeous Broadband in the News**
  - **Since Last Meeting**
    - QLife Press Release
    - Launch of GorgeousBroadband.org
    - Launch of pre-sign up interest form
    - Columbia Community Connection Article (Press Release)
    - Telecompetitor Article (Industry Publication)
    - Broadband Breakfast Mention (Industry Publication)
  - **Coming Up**
    - Interactive Pre-sign up Map!
    - The Dalles Lions Club - October 27

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

- **In Process/Coming Soon!**
    - Public Contracting and Purchasing Policy - Pending Legal Review
    - FY26 Financial Audit (Wasco County Finance Team & Clear Trails CPAs)

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 will include a summary of system performance, uptime, maintenance activities, incident response, service interruptions if any, and ongoing infrastructure work.

- Mr. Walker presented the report with a discussion of development in The Dalles along with a project with The Dalles Irrigation District.

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. The parties present discussed.

B. KPI Framework

The QLife finance team presented a recommendation of which KPIs QLife may determine are most important for performance monitoring. The board noted these KPIs were a good starting point for QLife financial performance monitoring.

VII. Action Items (Presenters: Liz Lance)

None presented at this time.

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.
Executive Session began at 12:50pm.

X. Return to Public Session

The meeting returned to public session at 1:48pm.

XI. Action Items

No action items were presented.

XII. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:49pm.