

## **WILLAMETTE FALLS LOCKS AUTHORITY**

September 24, 2025, 2-3:15 pm

Meeting Minutes

(Minutes: Pat Vivian and Reed Wagner)

### **Authority Members Present:**

Vice Chair, Russ Axelrod [Geologist, former West Linn Mayor]  
Mary Baumgardner [Council President, West Linn]  
Secretary, Sandy Carter [Advocates for Willamette Falls Heritage]  
Robert Kentta [Tribal Council treasurer, Confederated Tribes of Siletz]  
Preston Korst [Portland General Electric]  
Chair, Christine Lewis [Councilor, Metro]  
Treasurer, Denyse McGriff [Mayor, Oregon City]  
Kristin Meira [Director of Government Affairs, American Cruise Lines]  
Chris Mercier [Vice Chair, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde]  
Rep. Jules Walters [House District 37]

### **Absent:**

David Penilton [Clackamas Country Tourism/MERC Commission]

### **Staff:**

Reed Wagner [WFLA Executive Director]  
Trevor Adams [Metro, Authority Intern}  
Pat Vivian [Notetaker]  
Keith Hobson [CFO]

### **Other:**

Laura Hicks [Project Manager, Corps of Engineers]

## **1 Welcome, Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Update**

1a. Chair's Welcome. Chair Christine Lewis opened the meeting, noting a quorum was present.

1b. Approval of Meeting Minutes (August 2025). There were no comments or changes to the minutes as presented.

**ACTION:** Authority Secretary Sandy Carter accepted a motion to approve the minutes. Mary Baumgardner made a motion and Russ Axelrod seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

1c. Treasurer's Update (financial statements, budget to actuals July 2025, and monthly bank statements). Treasurer Denyse McGriff reviewed the financial statements and reported that everything is in order. There were no questions of her or Keith Hobson.

**ACTION:** McGriff made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Carter. The treasurer's report was unanimously accepted.

## **2. Presentations and Discussions**

2a. Corps of Engineers Update. Laura Hicks, Corps of Engineers, gave a presentation and update. The slideshow covered the history of the Locks, work done to date and an update on the transfer of ownership.

2b. State Legislative Update. Doug Riggs gave an update on the special Senate session on transportation.

## **3. Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Reed Wagner reported. The process of developing a 20-year lease with the Corps of Engineers to document the transfer of ownership has begun. Wagner thanked Authority members Mary Baumgardner and Russ Axelrod for making recommendations on the five-year plan for operational funding that will kick off in early December.

Chair Lewis gave an update on her recent trip to Washington D.C. as part of the Authority's request for a 20-year lease.

**Wagner is working on setting up a tour date for a West Linn Historic Review Board; Trevor Adams will work with Chair Lewis on this.**

## **Adjourn**

The next Authority board meeting will be Wednesday, October 22.