

June 2024 Public Works Board Meeting Recap

To empower Washington communities to build and maintain sustainable infrastructure.

Prepared by PWB members Lora Petso and Justin Clary

AUTHORS' NOTE

The **FY2025 Traditional Program loan cycle closes June 28!** There is \$148 million available for critical infrastructure construction projects. Award anticipated during the PWB's August 2 meeting. The interest rate for construction loans will be 1.71% (1.37% or 0.86% for distressed or severely distressed communities, respectively). For more information, please visit the [PWB website](#) (you may subscribe for PWB updates from the website, as well).

CALL TO ORDER/CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Gardow called the meeting to order, roll call was conducted, and the board approved the consent agenda. Chair Gardow also recognized Member Jammerman, who will be resigning from the board at the end of June due to his retirement from the City of Wenatchee.

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

Chair's Award— Chair Gardow presented Senator Mark Mullet with the Public Works Board Chair's Award, recognizing Senator Mullet's steadfast advocacy of the PWB and the Public Works Assistance Account throughout not just the 2024 legislative session, but his entire tenure in the legislature.

Traditional Program Committee—Member Snyder reported that the committee met regarding the emergency loan program, including potential WAC modifications and streamlining of the application. The board acted associated with the following projects:

- The board **approved a \$1,000,000 emergency award to the City of Aberdeen** (\$500,000 loan, \$500,000 grant) to perform emergency repairs to a failed sewer line under the Wishkah River.
- The board **approved a reduction in scope to the City of Mattawa** well improvement project to account for funding secured from other resources that will finance a portion of the project.

INFORMATION ITEMS AND UPDATES

Executive Committee—Chair Gardow reported that discussion in committee meetings over the past month have been associated with 2025 legislative session priorities, 2025-27 operating budget requests, the utility relocation study status, and the outcome of recent meetings with legislators.

Broadband Committee—Member Stern and PWB staff Sheila Richardson provided an update of ongoing conversations with the State Broadband Office regarding the PWB and CERB's roles in broadband considering the \$1.2 billion in federal BEAD funding assigned to the SBO.

Communications Engagement and Technical Assistance Committee—Member Delvin and PWB staff Max Wedding reported that the committee met on May 22, during which it approved the committee charter, discussed means of publicizing the 40th anniversary of the PWB in 2025, and the identification of legislative champions for the 2025 legislative session.

May Retreat Follow Up—Executive Director Maria Jawad provided a status on the roadmap for update to the PWB strategic plan, work on better defining expectations and delegation of assignments to PWB committees, and developing a common definition for *equity* and *climate resilience*.

Sync—Member Clary provided a summary of the June 6 meeting, including current and planned funding cycles for partner agencies, discussion regarding partner agency support for legislative extension of the sunset of Sync, and important input from WSDOT and TIB on the utility relocation study.

Commerce—Mark Barkley, Commerce Assistant Director, indicated that he is actively working towards filling/reappointment of PWB positions.

Executive Director Update—ED Maria Jawad officially welcomed Holly Yoo and Leah-Cherri Day to the PWB staff.