

**Rainbow Water District and Springfield Utility Board
Joint Work Session**

Date: February 17, 2026

Time: 5:45 PM

Place: Bob Keefer Center, Heron Room

Rainbow Board Chair Marla Casley called the special work session for Rainbow Water District to order at 5:45 p.m.

Springfield Utility Board President David Willis called the Springfield Utility Board meeting to order at 5:46 p.m.

Rainbow Attendees

Board: Marla Casley, James Burrington, Doug Keeler, and Erik Westerholm (Mindy Kephart absent)

Staff: Jamie Porter, Eric Carlson, Jodi Sanders

Legal Counsel: Ross Williamson

SUB Attendees

Board: David Willis, Terri Dillon, John DeWenter, Ryan Thomas, and Bruce Webber

Staff: Jeff Nelson, Greg Miller, Cindy Flaherty, Tracy Suttan

Legal Counsel: Matt Dahlstrom

Rainbow Chair Marla Casley welcomed attendees to the third annual Joint Special Work Session of Rainbow Water District and Springfield Utility Board, hosted by Rainbow for 2026. She thanked the parties for working together on new intergovernmental agreements (IGAs) to coordinate joint operations for the benefit of the community, and expressed optimism that the agreements will be executed soon after the City of Springfield completes its review to coordinate urban services. Marla congratulated Jeff Nelson on his upcoming retirement after over 30 years at SUB, and said Rainbow looks forward to meeting the new SUB General Manager and continuing these annual meetings that allow us to connect on a personal level.

SUB President David Willis also welcomed the group and expressed appreciation for the collaboration and cooperation. He asked attendees to say something about themselves and their history with the Springfield area and their perspective utilities. Attendees then introduced themselves.

6:00 pm The meeting paused for attendees to eat dinner.

6:28 pm The meeting resumed.

Rainbow Superintendent Jamie Porter presented a history of the North System and the development of the Rainbow Water District. The presentation reviewed district boundaries, water sources, interconnected water system operations with SUB, and an overview of Rainbow's work with other small water systems. It was acknowledged that upcoming challenges due to aging wells and detections of PFAS in source water will require two new wells, one to replace I-5 Well #1 and a new Chase Well #6 to allow other wells to be abandoned or kept for emergency use only.

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SUB Water Division Manager Greg Miller presented a brief history of SUB's water system development. The presentation reviewed SUB's current water sources and treatment plants. Greg reported that SUB received a grant (forgiveable loan) for engineering design from the Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA) for PFAS treatment at the Sports Way Well and SP/Maia Wellfields, and design is underway with a goal of 2029 for operational systems. Greg reported that IFA funding was also obtained in the form of a grant and low interest rate loan for design and permitting of the McKenzie River Water Supply Project in Thurston which will have a full build-out capacity of 23 million gallons per day, nearly four times as much as the 6 million gallon per day capacity of the existing Slow Sand Filtration Plant on the Willamette River. After engineering design is complete, it is projected that groundbreaking will start in 2028 with the first phase of the treatment plant placed in operation as early as 2030.

Greg Miller also reported that Rainbow and SUB have a current Emergency Intertie Agreement with EWEB that allows the utilities to share water on an emergency basis, and staff meet regularly to coordinate and plan periodic exercise. It is in SUB's 10-year capital plan to construct a new higher capacity intertie in the area of the Marcola Meadows neighborhood. SUB is also working with consultants to regularly update hydraulic models that assess system conditions and provide helpful data to guide SUB and Rainbow operations. SUB is working through all of their reservoirs to complete seismic upgrades based on a consultant's analysis performed jointly with Rainbow in 2014, and SUB is also proceeding with projects to install backup power generators at the Water Service Center and Willamette Slow Sand Plant after a long process of obtaining FEMA grant funding for the projects.

SUB General Manager Jeff Nelson pointed out that Tracy Suttan is Rainbow's Key Account Manager for electric outages.

Other discussion noted that SUB and Rainbow also work together on projects like the Springfield Drinking Water Protection Plan and an upcoming update to the Water Management and Conservation Plan. Rainbow added that they have an existing backup generator at their 42nd Street office, and a trailer-mounted generator that can power some of the wells at the Chase Wellfield.

Rainbow Board Chair Marla Casley closed the meeting of the Rainbow Water District at 7:33 p.m.

Springfield Utility Board President David Willis closed the meeting of the SUB Board at 7:33 p.m.

 3/11/2026

Minuted Approved

Date