



**Salem Area Mass Transit District  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**April 25, 2019**

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<b>Moved to approve the Consent Calendar: .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1. <u>Approval of Minutes</u></b>	
<b>a. Minutes of the March 28, 2019 Board Meeting</b>	
<b>b. Minutes of the March 11, 2019 Board Work Session</b>	
<b><u>Routine Business - None</u></b>	
<b>Moved to adopt Board Resolution No. 2019-04 establishing Policy #119 – Environmental Sustainability Statement .....</b>	<b>4</b>
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Salem Area Mass Transit District  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

April 25, 2019

Courthouse Square – Senator Hearing Room  
555 Court Street NE, Salem, Oregon 973010

**MINUTES**

<b>PRESENT Board</b>	President Robert Krebs; Directors Doug Rodgers, Colleen Busch, Marcia Kelley, Kathy Lincoln, Jerry Thompson, and Steve Evans (arrived 6:44 p.m.)
<b>Staff</b>	Allan Pollock, General Manager; David Trimble, Chief Operating Officer; Paula Dixon, Director of Administration; Al McCoy, Director of Finance/CFO; Steve Dickey, Director of Transportation Development; Patricia Feeny, Director of Communication; Chip Colby, Information Technology Manager; Chris French, Senior Planner; Stephen Custer, Digital Marketing Coordinator; Linda Galeazzi, Executive Assistant; Ben Fetherston, SAMTD Legal Counsel
<b>Guests</b>	John Love, Transit Operator and member of the Sustainability Committee

**A. CALL TO ORDER 6:30 PM**  
 President Krebs called the meeting to order. The attendance was noted and a quorum was present. Director Busch led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**“SAFETY MOMENT” THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

Mr. Pollock shared a *Safety Moment* about knowing where to evacuate in the event of an earthquake. At Courthouse Square, people in the building should go to the North Block.

**B. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

President Krebs announced that there were 135 days to the first day of the new, enhanced transit service.

Director Thompson requested that the Board add an item to the agenda to move the general manager’s performance evaluation in executive session from the September board meeting to the June board meeting. President Krebs advised that this agenda item would be No. G.2 under Action Items.

**C. PRESENTATIONS - None**

**D. PUBLIC COMMENT - None**



**E. CONSENT CALENDAR**

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>Moved to approve the Consent Calendar:</b> <b>2. <u>Approval of Minutes</u></b> <b>a. Minutes of the March 28, 2019 Board Meeting</b> <b>b. Minutes of the March 11, 2019 Board Work Session</b> <b>3. <u>Routine Business</u> - None</b>
<b>Motion by:</b>	<b>Director Jerry Thompson</b>
<b>Second:</b>	<b>Director Marcia Kelley</b>
<b>Discussion:</b>	<b>No items were deferred from the Consent Calendar.</b>
<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Motion passed (Krebs, Kelley, Thompson, Busch, Lincoln, Rodgers)</b>
<b>Absent:</b>	<b>Director Evans did not vote. He arrived at the meeting at 6:44 p.m.</b>

**F. ITEMS DEFERRED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR**

**G. ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Resolution #2019-04 Adoption of Environmental Sustainability Policy #119**

**Staff report:** Pages 13-16 in the agenda

**Presenter:** Allan Pollock, General Manager

Mr. Pollock reported that he is the chair of the District's Sustainability Committee. As part of its annual work plan, the Committee prepared a draft policy statement for the Board's consideration at the April 8, 2019 work session with the goal to "Be an environmentally responsible organization" which is one of the strategic priorities in the District's Strategic Plan. The District met the requirements of the American Public Transportation Associations to be a signatory on its' sustainability policy, and on one for Marion County; but there are other levels and criteria to work toward. From the feedback the Committee received from board members at the work session, they finalized the policy statement that is in the staff report with their recommendation to adopt the resolution to establish Policy #119.

Directors Rodgers and Lincoln submitted prepared statements [herein given as Attachments A and B respectively; and by this reference made a part of these Minutes].

Director Rodgers did not object to having a policy about the District's commitment to taking care of the environment but will not vote in favor of the guidelines "as is." He supports the commitment to a healthy environment; reducing pollution and working to utilize natural resources more efficiently, as is stated in the policy, is reducing greenhouse gas emissions. He shared reasons for his conflict with the use of the phrase "*Climate Change*" in the *General Guidelines* of the Policy under #119.03(A)



as it is currently defined, and suggested erasing it because it is addressed in the rest of the document, and is redundant and unnecessary.

Director Lincoln spoke in favor of the Board’s policy statement as written. She gave examples of the District continuing efforts to work toward the reduction of greenhouse gases, to include CO2, which is a goal in the District’s Strategic Plan and its’ vehicle acquisition policy; through the District’s grant application process to meet the FTA requirements for no/low emission vehicles; and by working toward the goal set by the State of Oregon in ORS.468(A) to reduce the greenhouse gas level ten percent below the 1990 levels by 2020 and by 95% by 2050. She said the policy makes a formal board statement of practices that are already in effect. It also sends a clear message to the rest of the community and other jurisdictions, that the Board takes the impact of climate change seriously and that the decisions they make can make a difference.

**Motion: Moved to adopt Board Resolution No. 2019-04 establishing Policy #119 – Environmental Sustainability Statement**  
**Motion by: Director Kathy Lincoln**  
**Second: Director Marcia Kelley**  
**Vote: Motion passed**  
**YES (Krebs, Kelley, Thompson, Busch, Lincoln, Evans); NO (Rodgers)**

**2. Move the Executive Session for the Performance Evaluation of the General Manager to June 27, 2019**

**Staff report:** Oral Report  
**Presenter:** Director Jerry Thompson

Director Thompson advised that the Board conducts a performance evaluation of the General Manager annually after the fiscal year end in September. This year, as of July 1, 2019, four new Directors’ terms begin with the retirement of four current Directors on June 30. Director Thompson recommended that the performance evaluation be moved up to the June 27 board meeting so that the current Board can conduct the evaluation for the past fiscal year 2019; and the new Board can begin with their evaluation for FY2020.

**Motion: Move the General Manager’s performance evaluation to the June 27<sup>th</sup> board meeting in executive session.**  
**Motion by: Director Jerry Thompson**  
**Second: Director Steve Evans**  
**Vote: Motion passed unanimously (7)**

**H. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**1. May Service Change Briefing**



**Staff report:** Pages 17-18

**Presenter:** Chris French, Senior Planner

Mr. French briefed the Board on changes to the Cherriotics fixed route services beginning May 5, 2019. Route 11's schedule will be adjusted. Routes 91 and 92 will be combined as one Route 9192 modifying the schedule and routing for that route. The schedule for the Polk County Flex will be changed beginning May 6, 2019 to better suit the current ridership. Customers will still need to call in no sooner than the day before to book their trips.

## **I. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Pollock reported that SKATS released the Transportation System Plan for public comment. Transit Day at the Capitol, sponsored by the Oregon Transit Association, was held on April 9. He attended the APTA CEO Seminar where he met with the Legislative Steering Committee representing small operations to discuss the transportation authorization bill. He said there were many events at the District in April with *Administrative Professional Day*, and *Take Your Child to Work Day*, and *Get on Board Day* with Caesar, the No Drama Llama, and a brand new bus that was put on display. He announced that the FY2020 budget process begins with the first meeting on May 2.

## **J. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS**

Board members report on their Board assignments, as representatives of the District. In addition, board members shared the following:

President Krebs talked with a constituent about the Saturday service plan. He shared an article about street cars making a comeback, and an article with a picture of a Cherriotics bus in the Western Oregon University newsletter reporting on a Cherriotics bus route to their new campus in Salem.

Director Thompson attended the STF Advisory Committee meeting where Ben Fetherston, the District's legal counsel gave a presentation on *Ethics*, and the committee had their first look at the Coordinated Plan.

Director Rodgers attended a forum for candidates running for positions on the school district board.

Director Evans received legislative updates from Dale Penn at the Capitol. Mr. Penn is the District's legislative advocate. Mr. Evans also attended the Salem Electric Board meeting; and he is a team captain for the Rotary in West Salem to sell berries.

Director Kelley went to a City Club meeting presentation on plastics, and to a Kiwanis meeting. She attended the MWACT meeting where eleven applications were reviewed



for STIF Discretionary funding; ten applications were forwarded with a “yes.” There was discussion about the paving project on the freeway from Chemawa Road to Woodburn; and about the outreach and use of public transportation from Salem to Wilsonville. Most of the paving is done at night. She said ODOT is doing a national search to fill Matt Garrett’s position when he retires in June.

Director Busch attended the Keizer Chamber Greeters event and the Weddle Parent Club meeting. She attended the Marion County Commissioners Breakfast with the Keizer City Council, a meeting of the Latino Business Alliance, a Liberty House event and outdoor school.

Director Lincoln provided more details about the SKATS meeting where they discussed the 20 year plan for transportation in the Salem/Keizer area with a broad perspective considering the needs, gaps in service and the impact. MWVCOG will have an open house on its website to receive the publics’ comments on the plan.

**K. MEETING ADJOURNED**

**7:15 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert Krebs, President

Salem Area Mass Transit District  
Board of Directors Meeting  
April 25, 2019

**SUPPLEMENTAL PACKET**

Agenda Item G.1 Adopt Resolution #2019-04 Establishing an Environmental  
Sustainability Policy Statement



Linda Galeazzi <linda.galeazzi@cherriots.org>

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## Thoughts on our environmental policy draft

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**Doug Rodgers** <doug.rodgers@cherriots.org>

Tue, Apr 23, 2019 at 10:37 PM

To: Linda Galeazzi <Linda.Galeazzi@cherriots.org>, Board of Directors <Board@cherriots.org>

Cc: Executive Team <executivestaff@cherriots.org>

Hello everyone,

Here is my take on how the draft is written. I only have one issue with it, and I hope my letter explains it in a way you can understand.

Thank you for your time,

Doug Rodgers

Director, sub-district 4



**climate change letter to board.docx**

15K



4-21-2019

Dear Fellow Board Members,

I've been mulling something over for a while. My intention was to discuss it during our last work session, but it would not have come out quite the way I wanted it to. And as I look over the finished product, it was wise to sit down and write it out.

With all the talk of what some people are calling "Climate Change", we are forgetting a few things. For example, what do the words, "Steady State", "quasi-Steady State", "Oscillating Universe", "Big Bang", "uniformitarianism", and "punctuated equilibrium" all have in common? To one degree or another, each of these models attempts to describe how human beings came to exist. Each has been accepted, rejected and/or re-evaluated and has had qualified scientists acting as proponents and antagonists.

As time has passed, the general population has embraced most of these in one form or another.

Ultimately, a person who did not accept what was then in vogue was ridiculed, demeaned, ignored and generally thought of as being "un-scientific". Never mind that other legitimate scientists disagreed with their colleagues. The accepted position of the time was the only possible way for the data to be accurately interpreted.

You're wondering what all this has to do with..."Climate Change".

In my life time, scientists have said, "A new Ice Age is coming", "Global Warming" and now we are told, "Climate Change". And just like with evolutionary dogma, if you don't believe what is handed to you at the time it is given, the fault lies with the person who doesn't jump on the band wagon.

I have found that the people who express the need for others to be "tolerant" and "inclusive," won't give you the time of day if you dare to question the wisdom in spending multiple billions of dollars to prevent what *might* happen in the future when we can't always predict the weather patterns for next week.

To wrap up: I believe our climate ebbs and flows. (But *not* the way Al Gore Jr. has pushed it—And definitely not because cows are pooping in the pasture.) This earth God has given us to inhabit used to be much warmer and tropical than it is now. Coal, gas and oil—made up of plants—is found all over the world (including the north slope of Alaska.) Antarctica has large ferns buried under the ice. Siberia was home to large herds of woolly mammoths that are now frozen in the snow with food (plants that don't survive in snow) still in their stomachs. In other words, our earth was warmer long before the industrial revolution and the domestication of the dairy cow.

What I would like to see happen and the reason for this email:

Just because I don't blindly follow groups like the Working Families Party that tell us we have 12 years left before catastrophe is upon us, that doesn't mean I enjoy pollution. One of the silly remarks I've heard insinuates that people like me don't care about the environment. Ridiculous... I'm all for a

healthy environment. Not just because it is a good idea, but because the Creator told us to take care of our home.

Therefore, the idea of having a policy on our commitment to taking care of the environment (#119) is something I do not object to. The only thing I have an issue with is in the General Guidelines (119.03) Letter A: "Reduce Greenhouse gas Emissions". This is phraseology that "Climate Change" adherents use and is associated with the phrase "Climate Change" in a way I disagree with. I am not alone in this.

As I mull it over, I feel that for me to vote in favor of these guidelines (as is) would be saying I agree with Climate Change as currently defined.

So I have a suggestion: Simply erase the specific wording I mentioned above. This shouldn't be a problem for anyone because in the mind-set of those who are legitimately concerned over the issue, it is addressed in the rest of the document anyway: If you "reduce pollution" and "Work to utilize natural resources more efficiently" as stated in the policy, then you ARE "reducing Greenhouse gas Emissions". In other words, the phrase is redundant and unnecessary.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my view point.

Best Regards,

Doug Rodgers

Director

Sub-district 4

For those who think we have to "DO SOMETHING" to keep the world as we know it from sinking into the abyss, it should be pointed out that eliminating the phrase, "green house gasses" from the policy doesn't change what you and those like myself want to accomplish: Less Pollution. What it does accomplish is eliminating some polarizing language that simply makes the board seem less-than-tolerant to anything other than a singular interpretation of data as it relates to our fluid climate. In other words, if the language I object to is eliminated, the end result would be exactly the same.

Words matter. Our Sustainability Policy Statement, which is referenced in our Strategic Plan, needs to include a specific commitment to reduce GHG emissions, for many reasons.

I don't think anyone can argue that our climate is not changing. These changes have tremendous social, economic, environmental and health consequences. Increased levels of greenhouse gases, including CO<sub>2</sub>, contribute to the problem.

Transportation accounts for about 30% of the CO<sub>2</sub> released to the atmosphere. Cherrits, as a transportation provider can make a significant impact on reducing CO<sub>2</sub> in our area by moving toward vehicles that do not burn fossil fuels. In fact, the District has been working toward that goal for some time.

Every time we apply to the FTA for a grant for no/low emission vehicles, the District must demonstrate how the proposed vehicles will reduce emissions of greenhouse gases from transit operations. The FTA, according to federal statutes, will consider the quality and extent to which applications demonstrate how the proposed project will reduce Direct Carbon Emissions. A recent application points out that the grant will allow SAMTD to remove older (CNG) fueled buses from service and deploy zero-emission battery electric buses in their place, therefore reducing the energy consumption and harmful emissions, including the emission of greenhouse gases, associated with its fleet. The application goes on to enumerate the number of tons of greenhouse gases that would be avoided with the replacement vehicles.

In addition, the District's vehicle acquisition policy requires the staff to consider low and no emission vehicles, when purchasing new ones, and to consider the quantity of greenhouse gases that would be produced by the new vehicle and factor that into the decision. We need to be sure that these efforts continue.

And I am excited about the possibility of using renewable natural gas in our current buses, which actually results in a net loss of carbon in the atmosphere.

The state of Oregon adopted ORS 468A, which sets a goal of reducing greenhouse gas levels 10 percent below 1990 levels by 2020, and by 95% by 2050. The statute makes it a policy for state and local governments to prepare for the effects of global warming and by doing so, prevent and reduce the social, economic and environmental effects of global warming. If we are going to even

get close to meeting those state goals, it is important for Cherriots to have a policy statement from the board specifically focused on GHG emissions, so we have a clear intent and commitment to do what we can in our organization.

This policy statement, which commits the District to “look for opportunities to minimize pollution and reduce greenhouse gas emissions” becomes part of our Strategic Plan. It makes a formal board statement of practices that are already in effect. It also sends a clear message to the rest of the community and other jurisdictions, that we take the impacts of climate change seriously and that decisions we make can make a difference.