

MINUTES
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD
CITY OF EL PASO
May 14, 2025

The regular meeting of the Public Service Board was held in person, Wednesday, May 14, 2025

PSB MEMBERS PRESENT

Bryan Morris - Chair
Stefanie Block – Treasurer
Dr. Anna Gitter - Member
Dr. Hector Ocaranza - Member
Charlie Intebi, Vice-Chair
Lane Gaddy – Member
Mayor Renart U. Johnson

PSB EMPLOYEES PRESENT

John E. Balliew, P.E., President and Chief Executive Officer
Daniel Ortiz, General Counsel

EPWATER EMPLOYEES PRESENT

Ana Sanchez, Vice President of Financial and Management Services
Gilbert Trejo, Vice President of Operations and Technical Services
Adam Wickersham, Vice President of IT
Art Duran, Chief Financial Officer
Claudia Duran, Chief of Staff
Edith Lara, Executive Assistant to the President/CEO
Melinda Becker, Assistant General Counsel
Alberto Gomez, Utility Video Production Manager
Alessa Contreras, Multimedia Design Specialist
Robert Evans, Software Developer I
David Rodriguez, Support Services Manager
Elmer Beeler, Chief Support & Logistics Officer
Felipe Lopez, Utility Chief Engineering Officer
Rose Guevara, Utility Purchasing & Contracts Manager
Veronica Garcia, Senior Purchasing Agent
Luz Elena Holguin, Utility Assistant Chief Financial Officer
Gretchen Byram, Utility Senior Computer Media Specialist
Martin Noriega, Utility Chief Operations Officer
Ivan Hernandez, Utility Engineering Division Manager
Lisa Rosendorf, Chief Communications and Government Affairs Officer
Jeff Tepsick, Assistant Chief Finance Officer
Bianca Arriaga, Utility Grants Program Manager
Sol Cortez, Deputy General Counsel
Irazema Rojas, Utility Chief Engineering Officer
Ivan Ibarra, Fleet and Building Maintenance Superintendent
Jose Castro Ramos, Fleet Maintenance Chief
Martha Gonzalez, Materials Specialist
Jose Leyva, Fleet Service Worker
Richard Wilcox, Water Supply Manager
Angel Bustamante, Wastewater Systems Division Manager
Enrique Ochoa, Engineering Division Manager

GUEST

None

The Public Service Board meeting was called to order by Bryan Morris at 8:32 a.m. A quorum of its members was present. After a moment of silence, those in attendance joined Mrs. Sol Cortez in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion made by Ms. Block and seconded by Mr. Intebi, items 5 and 6 were pulled from the Consent Agenda and placed into the Regular Agenda.

On a single motion made by Mr. Gaddy and seconded by Ms. Block and unanimously carried, the Board took action on the following consent agenda items:

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED THE MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING HELD ON APRIL 9, 2025**
- 2. CONSIDERED AND AWARDED RFP 10-25 TO PVS DX INC. AND UNIVAR SOLUTIONS USA LLC TO SUPPLY CAUSTIC SODA AS NEEDED FOR A COMBINED ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST OF \$345,000 FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM AND FOUR ONE-YEAR EXTENSIONS.**
- 3. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED A SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT PURSUANT TO SECTION 252.022(A)(7)(A) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE WITH XYLEM WATER SOLUTIONS U.S.A INC. DBA LSW WATER SOLUTIONS U.S.A, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FOR \$800,000 AND AN ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$150,000 FOR PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR ONE YEAR AND FOUR ONE-YEAR OPTIONS.**
- 4. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED A SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT WITH ROCK ROBOTIC INC, FOR THE PURCHASE OF A DRONE AND SOFTWARE PURSUANT TO SECTION 252.022(A)(7)(A) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$80,285.**
- 7. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED A \$1,000,000 INCREASE TO THE EXISTING MASTER CONTRACT WITH CELLCO PARTNERSHIP DBA VERIZON WIRELESS UNDER TEXAS DIR CONTRACT NO. DIR-TELE-CTSA-003, FOR A TOTAL OF \$1,500,000 AND AUTHORIZED FUTURE ANNUAL MASTER CONTRACTS FOR \$1,500,000 FOR THE DURATION OF THE DIR CONTRACT TERM.**
- 8. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED A \$1,000,000 INCREASE TO THE MASTER CONTRACT WITH STEWART AND STEVENSON POWER INC., FOR THE PURCHASE OF ATLAS COPCO EQUIPMENT UNDER SOURCEWELL CONTRACT NO. 020923-PWT, FOR A TOTAL OF \$1,500,000 AND AUTHORIZED FUTURE ANNUAL MASTER CONTRACTS OF \$1,500,000 FOR THE DURATION OF THE SOURCEWELL CONTRACT TERM.**
- 9. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED AN INCREASE TO THE CURRENT MASTER CONTRACT CAPACITY WITH PYROCOM SYSTEMS, INC. UNDER ESC REGION 19 CONTRACT NO. 24-7488, FOR THE PURCHASE OF SECURITY EQUIPMENT BY AN ADDITIONAL \$1,000,000 FOR A TOTAL OF \$1,500,000 AND AUTHORIZED THE ISSUANCE OF A FUTURE MASTER CONTRACT FOR \$1,000,000.**
- 10. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED CHANGE ORDER NUMBER 4 – BID NUMBER 11-23, MCGREGOR 16IN WATERLINE, NE DYER INTERCEPTOR PH IV, FRANKLIN E WATERLINE EXTENSION PH II, TO SJ LOUIS CONSTRUCTION, INC., INCREASING THE CONTRACT TIME BY 55 DAYS AND THE CONTRACT PRICE BY \$702,600.05.**
- 11. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO THE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH GARVER, LLC FOR \$1,716,513.70 FOR ADDITIONAL DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE FRED HERVEY WATER RECLAMATION PLANT PROJECT, EXTEND THE CONTRACT BY TWO YEARS, AND AUTHORIZED FUTURE TASK ORDERS OR AMENDMENTS UP TO \$2,500,000.**
- 12. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED AN AMENDMENT TO THE EXISTING SOLE SOURCE AGREEMENT WITH AQUATERREX LLC, PURSUANT TO SECTION 252.022(A)(7)(A) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE FOR AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF \$126,000 FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE II ACTIVITIES AND EXTEND THE CONTRACT TERM BY AN ADDITIONAL YEAR.**

REGULAR AGENDA

5. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED A \$1,000,000 INCREASE TO THE EXISTING MASTER CONTRACT WITH ERP ANALYSTS, INC. UNDER ESC REGION 19 CONTRACT NO. 24-7480 FOR ADDITIONAL SOFTWARE, HARDWARE AND CONSULTING SERVICES, FOR A TOTAL OF \$1,500,000 AND AUTHORIZED FUTURE ANNUAL MASTER CONTRACTS FOR \$1,500,000 FOR THE DURATION OF THE ESC REGION 19 CONTRACT TERM.

Gladys De Santiago, Utility Assistant Chief Information Officer, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) A master contract was issued through the cooperative ESC Region 19 Contract No. 24-7480 to ERPA pursuant to the delegated authority of the President/CEO or designee to issue master contracts with awarded vendors participating in approved cooperative purchasing programs for an estimated annual master contract amount of \$500,000 without further Public Service Board (PSB) approval.

Additional capacity is needed in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the master contract with ERPA for products and services available through the ESC Region 19 Contract No. 24-7480 for Technology, Hardware, Software, Services and Related.

EPWater previously purchased PeopleSoft Global Support Services from ERPA. Additional upcoming consulting services from ERPA include the following:

- migrating the PeopleSoft Financials and Supply Chain application to Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI)
- upgrading PeopleTools from version 8.54 to 8.61
- updating PUM from version 11 to 51 (or latest)
- upgrading the Oracle database from 11.2 to 19c.
- migrating the PeopleSoft HR system to OCI.

On a motion made by Mayor Johnson, seconded by Dr. Ocaranza, the board considered and approved a \$1,000,000 increase to the existing master contract with ERP Analysts, Inc. under ESC Region 19 Contract No. 24-7480 for additional software, hardware and consulting services, increasing for a total to \$1,500,000 and authorized future annual master contracts for \$1,500,000 for the duration of the ESC Region 19 contract term. Mrs. De Santiago answered questions from the board on this item.

6. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED A \$4,500,000 INCREASE TO THE EXISTING MASTER CONTRACT WITH MYTHICS, LLC UNDER OMNIA REGION 4 CONTRACT NO. R240202 FOR ORACLE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES, FOR A TOTAL OF \$5,000,000 AND AUTHORIZED FUTURE ANNUAL MASTER CONTRACTS FOR \$5,000,000 FOR THE DURATION OF THE OMNIA CONTRACT TERM.

Adam Wickersham, Vice President of Information Technology, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) A master contract was issued through the cooperative Omnia Region 4 Contract No. R240202 to Mythics, LLC for Oracle products and services pursuant to the delegated authority of the President/CEO or designee to issue master contracts with awarded vendors participating in approved cooperative purchasing programs for an estimated annual master contract amount of \$500,000 without further Public Service Board (PSB) approval. Staff is requesting to increase the capacity of the master contract by \$4,500,000 for the Omnia Region 4 Contract No. R240202. This master contract will be used to purchase the following Oracle products:

- Oracle C2M – Customer billing system which also serves as the coordinating application for the customer self-service portal, meter reads, and work order management.
- Oracle DBMS – Database management systems for the following business systems: ESRI GIS, Infor Public Sector asset/land management, Horizon Laboratory Information Management and Application Xtender document management systems.
- Oracle Cloud Infrastructure – Cloud infrastructure components for data warehouse, business intelligence and data analytics.
- Oracle Database Appliance – On-premise physical servers utilized to operate database systems
- License Agreements - for technical infrastructure components
- Purchase of additional cloud infrastructure components - to support reporting and data backup initiatives

On a motion made by Dr. Gitter, seconded by Mayor Johnson, the board considered and approved a \$4,500,000 increase to the existing master contract with Mythics, LLC under Omnia Region 4 Contract No. R240202 for Oracle products and services, for a total of \$5,000,000 and authorized future master contracts for \$5,000,000 for the duration of the Omnia contract term. Mr. Wickersham answered questions from the board on this item.

13. CEO MONTHLY UPDATE REGARDING UTILITY MANAGEMENT AND/OR OPERATIONS:

- **UPDATE ON THE NEW EPWATER WEBSITE LAUNCH**
- **RECOGNITION OF EPWATER VOLUNTEERS**

14. MANAGEMENT REPORT:

- **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FLEET ADMINISTRATORS RECOGNIZES SECTION 915 AMONG 2025'S 100 BEST FLEETS IN THE AMERICAS**
- **VIDEO FROM COMMUNICATIONS – WELLS REHAB PROGRAM BOOSTS READINESS**

15. PUBLIC COMMENT: THE PSB WILL PERMIT PUBLIC COMMENT ON SUBJECTS NOT ON THE AGENDA BUT MAY NOT DELIBERATE ON THESE ITEMS IF NOT POSTED FOR DISCUSSION. THE CHAIR MAY IMPOSE REASONABLE TIME LIMITS FOR EACH SPEAKER.

No one signed up to speak.

REGULAR AGENDA (continued)

16. CONSIDERED AND ADOPTED A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EMERGENCY REHABILITATION AND REPAIR OF THE BUSTAMANTE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT CLARIFIER SYSTEM, RATIFYING PRIOR CONTRACTS AND PURCHASES, AND AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT/CEO TO CONTINUE TO TAKE NECESSARY EMERGENCY ACTIONS PURSUANT TO THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 252.022(A) WITHOUT FURTHER BOARD APPROVAL.

Irazema Rojas, Utility Chief Engineering Officer, 915-594-5562, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) On March 14, 2025, a 36-inch influent pipeline connected to the primary clarifier system at the Bustamante experienced a significant leak caused by advanced corrosion. The incident resulted in the release of approximately 100,000 gallons of raw sewage, which was successfully contained within the facility's emergency spill pond. Subsequent inspection revealed extensive corrosion across multiple segments of the pipeline, indicating the need for immediate replacement of the affected sections. At the time of the incident, Clarifier #4 was already out of service due to mechanical system issues. The March 14, 2025 failure rendered Clarifier #1 inoperable as well, reducing the number of operational primary clarifiers at the plant from four to two. A contractor already onsite began the emergency repairs needed as a result of the March 14, 2025 failure. On April 17, 2025, a second failure occurred on another 36-inch influent line, resulting in an estimated spill of 800,000 gallons of raw sewage, also contained within the emergency spill pond. This second incident forced the shutdown of Clarifier #3, leaving the Bustamante with only one operational primary clarifier. The contractor onsite assisted with the clean up effort and setting up temporary bypass pumping to restore operations of two clarifiers. Additional engineering services and construction work is needed for the emergency repairs. These back-to-back failures have placed the plant's operational capacity at significant risk and require immediate emergency repairs to restore treatment reliability and regulatory compliance.

On a motion made by Mayor Johnson, seconded by Dr. Ocaranza, the board considered and adopted a resolution authorizing the emergency rehabilitation and repair of the Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant clarifier system, ratifying prior contracts and purchases, and authorizing the President/CEO to continue to take necessary emergency actions pursuant to the Texas Local Government Code Section 252.022(a) without further Board approval. Mrs. Rojas answered questions from the board on this item.

17. CONSIDERED AND AUTHORIZED THE PRESIDENT/CEO TO ENTER INTO A PROJECT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS FOR THE STUDENT ACTIVITIES COMPLEX (SAC 1) POND AND CHANNEL STORMWATER PROJECT, WITH A TOTAL COST OF \$13,655,539; AUTHORIZED EPWATER'S \$3,413,885 MATCH, AND AUTHORIZED THE PRESIDENT/CEO TO SIGN RELATED DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING AMENDMENTS UP TO \$500,000.

Bianca Arriaga, Utility Grants Program Manager, 915-594-5680, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) The SAC 1 Pond and Channel project is one of four proposed detention structures in the Americas 10 Watershed system (System). It is designed to replace some of the detention capacity of the Americas 10 Dam and function as a sediment trap. This System will help maintain the current 100-year floodplain configuration if the dam is removed after the new ponds are built. The project includes a 360-foot-long earthen dam and a concrete drainage channel extending to Pine Springs Drive, using the nearby steep arroyo to store sediment and manage floodwaters.

On a motion made by Mayor Johnson, seconded by Dr. Ocaranza, the board considered and authorized the President/CEO to enter into a Project Partnership Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Student Activities Complex (SAC 1) Pond and Channel stormwater project, with a total cost of \$13,655,539; authorize EPWater's \$3,413,885 match, and authorized the President/CEO to sign related documents, including amendments up to \$500,000. Mrs. Arriaga answered questions from the board on this item.

18. CONSIDERED AND ADOPTED A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE EL PASO WATER 2024 BUILDING CONSTRUCTION TRADES AND HEAVY AND HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION TRADES WAGE RATES AND TRADE DEFINITIONS APPLICABLE TO EPWATER CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

Rose Guevara, Utility Purchasing & Contracts Manager, 915-594-5547, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) On April 15, 2025, the City of El Paso adopted a resolution specifying the wage rates for each craft or type of worker for Building Construction Trades and for Heavy/Highway Construction Trades work. The wage rates were established through a survey of wages conducted by the City of El Paso through the County of El Paso pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 2258.022(a)(1) and in conjunction with other local governmental bodies. The Public Service Board is requested to adopt the same wage rates for EPWater construction projects.

On a motion made by Mr. Gaddy, seconded by Mr. Intebi, the board considered and adopted a resolution establishing the El Paso Water 2024 Building Construction Trades and Heavy and Highway Construction Trades wage rates and trade definitions applicable to EPWater construction projects. Mrs. Guevara answered questions from the board on this item.

19. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT-RISK (CMAR) CONTRACT WITH PCL/SUNDT, A JOINT VENTURE, FOR THE ROBERTO R. BUSTAMANTE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT AND ACCEPTED GUARANTEED MAXIMUM PRICE NO. 6 (GMP 6) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$39,164,431.

Irazema Rojas, Utility Chief Engineering Officer, 915-594-5562, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) The Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant was originally designed in 1991 with a treatment flow capacity of 39 million gallons per day (MGD). However, a study conducted in 2019 revealed that the plant's organic treatment capacity has declined to 30 MGD due to the increased strength of the wastewater. According to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) regulations, utilities are required to plan for expansion when 75% of the permitted capacity is exceeded for three consecutive months. In addition to the reduced treatment capacity, ongoing growth in East El Paso has pushed the plant's flow to 75% of its permitted limit. As a result, El Paso Water (EPWater) must expand the plant to a total capacity of 51 MGD. The project is divided into two phases. Phase 1 involves the construction of a new 21.4 MGD treatment train, with an estimated cost of \$585 million. Phase 2 includes the rehabilitation of the existing 39 MGD infrastructure to restore 9 MGD of treatment capacity, with a current estimated cost of \$200 million. Upon completion of both phases, the Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant will have gained a total of 30.4 MGD in treatment capacity. This agenda item requests approval of the GMP 6 work package for Phase 1. The scope of this package includes primary and secondary clarifiers, earthwork, excavation support systems, cranes, and additional general conditions expenses.

On a motion made by Dr. Ocaranza, seconded by Dr. Gitter, the board considered and approved an amendment to the Construction Manager At-Risk (CMAR) contract with PCL/Sundt, a joint venture, for the Roberto R. Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion and Improvements Project and accept Guaranteed Maximum Price No. 6 (GMP 6) in the amount of \$39,164,431.

20. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT-RISK (CMAR) CONTRACT WITH PCL/SUNDT, A JOINT VENTURE, FOR THE PURE WATER CENTER PROJECT AND ACCEPTED GUARANTEED MAXIMUM PRICE NO. 2 (GMP 2) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,685,640.

Irazema Rojas, Utility Chief Engineering Officer, 915-594-5562, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) EPWater is advancing efforts to diversify the city's water supply portfolio by implementing direct potable reuse through the development of the Pure Water Center. Once operational, the Pure Water Center will provide a new, drought-resistant water source, delivering up to 10 million gallons per day directly into the city's distribution system.

This innovative facility will be the first of its kind in the region, transforming treated effluent from the secondary clarifiers at the Roberto R. Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant into high-quality drinking water. The water will undergo a multi-barrier purification process at the Pure Water Center, including membrane microfiltration, reverse osmosis, ultraviolet light with advanced oxidation, granular activated carbon filtration, and chlorine disinfection.

Construction is scheduled to begin in summer 2025, with completion anticipated by late 2028. The estimated construction cost is \$295 million. The project is being delivered by CMAR method. PCL/Sundt proposed to deliver the CMAR project in multiple GMPs. GMP 2 will be for utility relocations, CMAR general conditions and additional mobilization cost.

On a motion made by Mr. Gaddy, seconded by Dr. Gitter, the board considered and approved an amendment to the Construction Manager At-Risk (CMAR) contract with PCL/Sundt, a joint venture, for the Pure Water Center project and accepted Guaranteed Maximum Price No. 2 (GMP 2) in the amount of \$9,685,640. Mrs. Rojas answered questions from the board on this item.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion made by Dr. Ocaranza, seconded by Mrs. Block and unanimously carried, the Board retired into Executive Session 9:36 a.m. May 14, 2025, pursuant to Section 3.5A of the El Paso City Charter and the Texas Government Code, Section 551.071 through 551.089 to discuss the following:

The Public Service Board will retire into Executive Session pursuant to Section 3.5A of the El Paso City Charter and the Texas Government Code, Sections 551.071 through 551.089. (The items listed below are matters of the sort to be discussed in Executive Session; however, the Public Service Board may move any item of this agenda to Executive Session, consistent with the terms of the Open Meetings Act.)

Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney
Section 551.072 Deliberation Regarding Real Property
Section 551.073 Deliberation Regarding Prospective Gift
Section 551.074 Personnel Matters
Section 551.076 Deliberations Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits
Section 551.087 Deliberation Regarding Economic Development Negotiations
Section 551.089 Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits

a. THE BOARD WILL DELIBERATE REGARDING WHETHER THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY

CAN BE DECLARED INEXPEDIENT TO THE WATER, WASTEWATER AND STORMWATER SYSTEMS: 80 TOWNSHIP 1 SECTION 5 T&P SURVEY, BLOCK 2, TRACT 1, APPROXIMATELY 592 ACRES (551.071) (551.072)

On a motion made Mrs. Block and seconded by Mr. Intebi this item was deleted.

- b. **THE BOARD WILL DELIBERATE REGARDING THE PURCHASE OF THE REAL PROPERTY LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: LOT 9, PLUS THE EAST 32 FEET OF LOT 8, BLOCK 1, REPLAT OF BROOK HOLLOW COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, AN ADDITION TO THE CITY OF EL PASO, EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN VOLUME 43, PAGE 4, OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORDS OF EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS, APPROXIMATELY 0.81 ACRES. (551.071) (551.072)**

On a motion made by Mrs. Block seconded by Dr. Ocaranza that the President and CEO be authorized to proceed with acquisition of the land, as approved by the Board in accordance with the terms and conditions specified and to sign any and all documents necessary to complete the purchase.

Any action as a result of these discussions will be taken at the re-opening of this meeting or at a subsequent meeting.

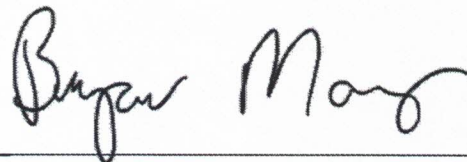
On a motion made by Mrs. Block, seconded by Mrs. Block, and unanimously carried, the Board reconvened in open session at 9:56 a.m., May 14, 2025.

On a motion made by Mr. Gaddy, seconded by Dr. Ocaranza, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m., May 14, 2025.

ATTEST:



Fok Stefanie Block Uribarri, Secretary-Treasurer



Bryan Morris, Chair