

Drinking Water Advisory Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2011
Salem

Members Present

Brittany Andrus, Privately Owned Water Systems
Ed Butts, Oregon Association of Water Utilities
Mel Damewood, Pacific NW Section, American Water Works Association
Bob Fuller, American Council of Engineering Companies
Jenifer George, Oregon Environmental Health Association
Todd Heidgerken, Large Water Systems
Ray Johnson, Plumbers/Backflow Testers
Mike Kurtz, Special Districts Association of Oregon
Beth Myers, Oregon Environmental Lab Association
Ann Younger, League of Women Voters

Members Absent

Gerry Meyer, Conference of Local Health Officials
Liz Redon, Watershed Councils
Brian Stahl, League of Oregon Cities

Guests

Robert Ault, Oregon Business Development Department, IFA
Mike Briesemeister, Eugene Water & Electric Board
Rich Giani, Portland Water Bureau
Dennis Knight, Oregon Business Development Department, IFA
Jeremy McVeety, Oregon Business Development Department, IFA
Alyssa Mucken, Water Resources Department
Chris Wanner, Portland Water Bureau
Doug Wise, Brown & Caldwell

Staff

Tony Fields Michael Perry
Dave Leland Diane Weis

To Do:

- Contact organizations whose member's terms have expired: Members
- Write Best Management Practice for Blue Green Algae: DWAC Subcommittee
- Educate public on program funding and capacity: Dave Leland
- ASSE application: Cross Connection Advisory Board

Welcome/Agenda Check/Member Terms:

Beth Myers welcomed the group and led introductions.

Members whose terms have already expired will contact their organizations to nominate a new member.

This is Bob Fuller's last meeting and he was presented with a certificate for six years of service on the committee.

April Meeting Minutes:

Todd Heidgerken made motion to approve minutes, Mel Damewood seconded. They were voted on and approved.

Integrated Water Resources Strategy:

The 2009 Legislature passed HB 3369 directing the Water Resources Department to develop a state-wide integrated water resources strategy to better understand and meet Oregon's current and future instream and out-of-stream water needs, looking at water quantity, water quality, and ecosystem needs. The effort includes a look at both groundwater and surface water. All aspects affecting water are being reviewed, such as climate change, population growth, and changes to land use. The first draft set of actions for the strategy have been revised to incorporate public health components, particularly drinking water.

Their latest draft actions covered several other issues, including funding, place-based approaches, water resource management, ecosystems, etc. Committee members suggested placing more emphasis on domestic well testing. The Drinking Water Advisory Committee agreed that draft Action Item 12.A accurately describes what the Oregon Health Authority/Drinking Water Program is required to do, and offered a few wording suggestions to Water Resources Department staff.

The Water Resources Department's Policy Advisory Group consists of 18 citizen members who represent a wide range of water interests. A number of natural resource agencies, state and federal, serve on two other advisory groups. The Policy Advisory Group will meet November 8, to further discuss the draft actions. The first draft of the strategy will be open for public comment beginning in late December. Water Resources Department plans to begin implementation of the Strategy by the end of 2012.

Member Concerns:

Mel Damewood said that Oregon Water Utility Council had concerns with systems whose intakes were near or downstream of Blue Green Algae. Todd Heidgerken made motion to form a subcommittee, and include affected utilities, that will write

a Best Management Practice for systems. It was seconded by Bob Fuller, voted on and approved. Brian Stahl and Mel will lead the subcommittee.

The new ORELAP director inspected Beth Myer's lab. Her concern was that she could not find the test results on ORELAP's website. She wants to know how to resolve a bad coliform test.

Program Update:

Program funding and capacity-status and next steps – With the current budget, it needs to be determined what the Drinking Water Program should do. A survey was taken to find out what the public thought the Program does, the next step is to inform the public on what the Program is actually capable of doing with the funds, there will be another survey, and then the findings will be reported back to the public. The Drinking Water Program will go to stakeholder meetings to report on their work capacity.

Dave Leland reviewed a presentation he can take to meetings that highlight all aspects of the Drinking Water Program. The presentation covered drinking water facts, primacy regulations, drinking water goals recommended by the Drinking Water Advisory Committee, contaminants detected, source water protection implemented, source water treatment, drinking water standards, Environmental Protection Agency regulation timeline, certified labs, performance measures, enforcement, water system facilities and personnel, State Revolving Loan Fund, and budget history. Dave would like feedback to improve on his presentation.

Revolving Fund Update:

Oregon Business Development Department is reviewing the 2012 Letter of Interest. The deadline for water systems to submit applications is closed.

SRF Quarterly Report –

- Heceta Water District received their funding.
- Unused ARRA money will be reallocated back to the base State Revolving Loan Fund Program.

Bend Project – Oregon Business Development Department is asking for the Drinking Water Advisory Committee to approve a loan to City of Bend over the amount they originally requested and have a portion be principal forgiveness from the loan fund. The City does not want the additional money loaned to them if it affects whether other systems receive their loans. The project is for filtration, water conduit, and a hydroelectric facility, which meets the Green Project requirements. Bob Fuller made motion to loan Bend the additional money and

have a portion be principal forgiveness, Todd Heidgerken seconded, it was voted on and approved.

Infrastructure Needs Survey – The original cut off date to have surveys completed was November 24 but the date has been pushed back to December. Some of the systems did not want to participate in the surveys but have since relented. The data collected so far has been good.

At the ASDWA Conference they talked about fiscal year allocations for the State Revolving Loan Fund. States need to apply for funds before a fiscal year begins and then use the funds the allocation was specified for. The pace of expenditures needs to be in place.

Application from ASSE to be considered equivalent to USC for approving backflow assemblies:

ASSE submitted a request to be used as an equivalent source to USC in approving backflow assemblies which would result in testers being allowed to use devices from either list. The decision needs to go through a review process so Tony Fields asked the Committee for input.

It was determined that this is a policy issue so it was recommended the discussion go to the Cross Connection Advisory Board that was established in 2004, for them to make the decision. Ray Johnson is on that Board. Mel Damewood made motion for this discussion to be taken to the Cross Connection Advisory Board and bring the decision back to the Drinking Water Advisory Committee. Todd Heidgerken seconded the motion, and it was voted on and approved. The Board will need to take the impact on testers into consideration when making their decision.

The Cross Connection Advisory Board is meeting on November 16 to discuss this issue and will get their recommendation to the Drinking Water Advisory Committee before the next meeting.

Next Meetings:

January 18, 2012 [*rescheduled to February 22, 2012*] – Public Utility Commission (Budget Update, SRF Update, Blue Green Algae Best Management Practice, ASSE Application)

April 18, 2012 – Public Utility Commission

July 18, 2012 – Public Utility Commission

October 17, 2012 – Public Utility Commission