

**Drinking Water Advisory Committee**  
Draft Meeting Minutes  
July 20, 2011  
Salem

Members Present

**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  
**Gerry Meyer**, Conference of Local Health Officials  
**Kathy Miller**, Privately Owned Water Systems  
**Brian Stahl**, League of Oregon Cities

Members Absent

**Beth Myers**, Oregon Environmental Lab Association  
**Liz Redon**, Watershed Councils  
**Ann Younger**, League of Women Voters

Guests

**Robert Ault**, Oregon Business Development Department, IFA  
**David Barnett**, Oregon Business Development Department, IFA  
**Phil Johanson**, Oregon Business Development Department, IFA  
**Chris Marko**, Rural Community Assistance Corporation  
**RoseAnna Noval**, Rural Community Assistance Corporation  
**Chris Wanner**, Portland Water Bureau

Staff

Adam DeSemple	Dave Leland
Jae Douglas	Gail Shibley
Tony Fields	Diane Weis
Karen Kelley	

**Welcome/Agenda Check:**

Brian Stahl welcomed the group and led introductions.

There were no changes to the agenda.

### **April Meeting Minutes:**

Ed Butts made motion to approve minutes, Bob Fuller seconded. They were voted on and approved.

### **Member Concerns:**

No one had any concerns to bring to the meeting.

### **Program Update:**

Legislative update –

Almost 3,000 bills were introduced and the governor signed 699 of them. Status of the two bills of interest to the Drinking Water Program:

- Backflow bill allowing testers to do limited repairs – did not pass.
- Packaged ice bill with proposed oversight by OHA was redirected to Department of Agriculture.

Budget update and next steps for 2011-13 –

The approved budget for 2011-13 is on the Oregon Health Authority website.

All General Funds (\$3.9M) were removed from the Drinking Water Program budget. There is now for the first time, no general funding in the Office of Environmental Public Health budget. The drinking water general funds will be partially replaced using \$3 million in increased fees generated in the Medical Marijuana Program. Those funds will be used to match available SRF set-asides, however, federal budget reductions have also reduced those allocations to the program by another \$0.9M. This means that for 2011-13 the program is funded at about 85% of the 2009-11 level, or \$1.8M less.

Program staffing dropped from 49 to 41 in 2009-11, mostly due to staff retirements. The Drinking Water Program organizational chart shows five vacancies, held open due to the agency-wide hiring freeze. As part of the approved budget, the three additional vacant positions that existed were eliminated and therefore do not appear on the chart. The current staff of 41 can be funded in 2011-13 with currently available funds. Should that funding picture improve, we may be able to fill one or more of the five vacancies.

For 2011-13, the program will reduce services as indicated in the essential functions matrix, and will concentrate its available resources on higher priority tasks.

Current Events –

Hexavalent Chromium – EPA has been working on a risk assessment in response to the Environmental Working Group report earlier this year on hex chrome in US city water supplies.

Fluoridation – HHS is revising supplemental fluoridation target levels from 0.7-1.2 mg/L down to a single level of 0.7 mg/L.

Japan nuclear plant – The plant will be shut down in 2-1/2 years. Only a small amount of radiation has been detected in the environment and food here in the US.

Rose Lodge – The court-ordered sale of the water system to a responsible person is proceeding.

Climate Disruption – Ongoing issue to pay attention to – climate can affect water supply in a variety of ways, such as snowpack and the change in rainfall patterns and intensity.

City of Portland – The City's LT2 treatment variance application is being reviewed by the Oregon Health Authority. There is no variance allowed for covering the open reservoirs, but community interest remains high.

Governor Accountability Office Data – This report focuses on the quality and completeness of water supplier compliance data, and whether that data supports national measures of drinking water safety. The report indicated data problems at both EPA and states.

### **Revolving Fund Update:**

The FY2011 project priority list is done. Thirty-two projects were sent forward to Infrastructure Finance Authority, with the majority of projects being disadvantaged and small community systems.

The Intended Use Plan Executive Summary is 27 pages long detailing how projects will be done and what is required.

FY 2012 Funding Letter of Interest has been received and sent to the Infrastructure Finance Authority for review. Applications are due by September 26.

The Source Water Protection Fund LOI was reviewed by Drinking Water Program staff. Applications are due by September 26.

Both the general funding LOI and the Source Water Protection Fund LOI are on the Drinking Water Program website.

FY 2011 set-asides – 27.8% of the fund was set aside in 2010, with the full allowable 31% to be used in 2011.

Workgroup – The workgroup will update the technical rating sheet to meet all new requirements, such as Green Project requirements. They will focus on Appendix J in the 2009 IFA Guidebook.

Workshops – IFA and Rural Community Assistance Corporation will be at the workshops to teach systems how to request funding assistance.

\$3.5 million in projects is being funded, one of which is a large project in the City of Bend.

**Drinking water related health impact projects within the Office of Environmental Public Health:**

OEPH is an integrated office, with public health related impacts overlapping among the different sections.

One of the sections within OEPH is Research and Education. R&E has technical staff skilled in data analysis, health effects, toxicology, and public health education. They focus on healthy environments such as healthy workplaces; healthy homes and schools (radon, lead based paint and air quality); healthy communities; and healthy waters (harmful algae bloom, fish, beach, and unregulated drinking water sources). All four R&E work units enter data in the environmental public health tracking system, intended to allow groups and researchers interested in public health to spatially analyze patterns of environmental contaminants along with illness/disease outcomes. Data also comes from federal government databases and Department of Environmental Quality. The intent is to use data to develop actionable information to identify and solve environmental health problems.

Their website is:

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/PHD/OEPH/RES/EPHT/Pages/index.aspx>

**Next Meetings:**

November 2, 2011 [*rescheduled from October 19, 2011*] - Public Utility Commission (Budget Update, SRF Update, HAB, Integrated Resource Strategy, Portland Water Bureau Variance)

January 18, 2012 – Public Utility Commission

April 18, 2012 – Public Utility Commission

July 18, 2012 – Public Utility Commission

October 17, 2012 – Public Utility Commission