

Drinking Water Advisory Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2012
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
Jenifer George, Oregon Environmental Health Association
Rich Giani, Large Water Systems
Ray Johnson, Plumbers/Backflow Testers
Gerry Meyer, Conference of Local Health Officials
Brian Stahl, League of Oregon Cities

Members Absent

Paul Berg, American Council of Engineering Companies
Mike Kurtz, Special Districts Association of Oregon
Beth Myers, Oregon Environmental Lab Association
Liz Redon, Watershed Councils
Ann Younger, League of Women Voters

Guests

Robert Ault, Infrastructure Finance Authority
David Barnett, Infrastructure Finance Authority
Robin Freeman, League of Oregon Cities
Jeremy McVeety, Infrastructure Finance Authority
Jim Ruef, Infrastructure Finance Authority

Staff

Adam DeSemple	Dave Leland
Joe Carlson	Michael Perry
Tony Fields	Diane Weis

To Do:

- Contact organizations whose member's terms have expired: Members
- Distribute on-line survey link to organization memberships: Members
- Review ABC contract: Tony Fields & DWAC Member
- Develop long-term recommendation on exam administration/proctoring: Tony Fields
- ASSE application for equivalency to NSF for backflow device approval: Cross Connection Control Advisory Board
- Write Best Management Practice for Blue Green Algae: DWAC Subcommittee

Welcome/Agenda Check/Roster Check/Member Terms:

Brian Stahl welcomed the group and led introductions.

The member terms were reviewed and those expiring this June were highlighted. Members whose terms have already expired will contact their organizations to nominate a new member.

November Meeting Minutes:

There are two corrections to be made to the November meeting minutes. 1) The Cross Connection Control Advisory Board name needs to be corrected. 2) The date of the next meeting changed to February needs to be noted.

Member Concerns:

Dave Leland said there is a citizen concerned with Chromium 6 and interested in appearing at a future meeting. Since Environmental Protection Agency is considering setting a drinking water standard, the State Drinking Water Program is not at this time. AWWA is presenting a webcast on Chromium 6 on February 29.

Mel Damewood reported that Eugene Water & Electric Board is participating in a statewide Water Resiliency Planning Committee. The committee will develop a contingency plan for providing water in emergency situations, such as an earthquake. Mel asked what regulations or guidelines exist for such plans; Dave Leland said there are none at present. Mel said the committee might recommend OAR 333 require systems to include disaster preparedness in their Master Plans.

Program Update:

Current Events, 2012 legislature, program budget status –

- Some of the highlights of 2012 so far: Chrome 6, legislature, Portland crypto detections, and the winter storm. All of the events show that “drinking water matters!”
- Portland LT2 variance – To receive a variance, Portland is required to do two things: 1) install treatment at the Bull Run water source or qualify for a treatment variance and, 2) cover or provide treatment for five open finished water reservoirs. There is a lot of media coverage on both of these issues. The Notice of Intent to grant a treatment variance was written with combined efforts of the Drinking Water Program, other offices in the Public Health Division, Dept. of Justice, and DEQ. No such variance has ever been issued anywhere in the US under the Safe Drinking Water Act. OHA intends to take final action on the variance before the end of March.
- Other LT2 Rule issues – City of Bend and Baker City both have unfiltered water sources and are proposing crypto treatment for their sources. Both communities are having lively local debates about project scopes and costs.

- Rose Lodge Water Systems – OHA petitioned the court to take the systems away from the current owner and sell to a responsible party. The system had not been maintained or operated properly, resulting in long-term boil notices.
- Legislature – The DWP has no bills in this legislative session. There are a few general water related bills being tracked.
- Budget – Due to budget restrictions some services have been reduced, most of which effect small systems. The Infrastructure Needs Survey outcome can affect the budget, and the hiring and contract freezes are also variables to the upcoming budget. No one knows when the current freezes will end.
- Program capacity – A Drinking Water Program performance survey will be sent out statewide in March to find out how well stakeholders statewide think the Program performs its variety of essential functions. Dave asked that members work with their organizations to distribute the survey link to their memberships.
- Regulatory efficiency – The Drinking Water Program continues to look at opportunities for efficiency and streamlining: website and other on-line tools, electronic data reporting, process improvement, etc.

Integrated Water Resources Strategy comments due 3/15 –

Dave Leland reminded the group that comments on the Water Resource Department’s Integrated Water Resources Strategy are due March 15.

Revolving Fund Update:

- The 2011 funds are almost spent. The pace of expenditure remains high due to construction projects in full swing.
- The 2011 annual report was submitted to Environmental Protection Agency on January 9. The annual review will take place the week of February 27 and anticipate the evaluation report in the spring.
- 2012 Letters of Interest – The application period was open from July to September 2011. Forty applications were submitted, 32 are eligible for funding which should be available in the spring. The number of systems that are required to receive a subsidy and principle forgiveness was at 30%, now it is set at 20%-30%. Green Projects are no longer a requirement. Systems not eligible for funding have already been notified so they can look for funding somewhere else.
- 2013 Letters of Interest – There will be an article in the next issue of the “Pipeline” newsletter announcing the application period will be open from July to September 2012.
- There is about \$800,000 in 2007 grant year money left so the Drinking Water Program has been given until June 2012 to spend it on appropriate expenditures.
- Oregon is leading the pace in the country on spending the ARRA funds.
- Environmental Protection Agency is expecting the State Revolving Loan Fund Programs to work more closely with water systems that have compliance issues.

- Bruce Goldberg, Director of Oregon Health Authority, recognized the good work the Drinking Water Program and Infrastructure Finance Authority did with successfully administering the State Revolving Loan Fund ARRA program.
- There have been \$7.7 million in repayments this year.
- Only \$450,000 in ARRA funds remains to be disbursed out of \$28M.
- Jeremy McVeety is asking for feedback on reformatting and improving the quarterly report. He included a sample on the last page of his handout.

Certification Exams and ABC Contract:

When the contract was originally written for an organization to supply and grade exams, ABC was the only organization providing that service. The contract needs to be renewed at present, but the Drinking Water Program is also wants to consider whether or not to continue giving and proctoring exams in the long-term, a service which ABC now offers on demand. Brian Stahl would like to see a proposal so the committee can deliberate and make a recommendation.

ASSE Application to Approve Backflow Assemblies in Oregon:

The Cross Connection Advisory Board met in mid-February to discuss using ASSE approved backflow assembly products as well as those with USC approval. The Board is asking for lists from ASSE and USC and will compare their approval process for consistency. The Board will meet in April and hope to present a written proposal at the April 18 Drinking Water Advisory Committee Meeting.

Blue Green Algae Best Management Practice Development:

Mel Damewood heads the subcommittee that met in December develop a best management practice document. The subcommittee is made up of state agencies, organizations, and water districts. They have determined that several separate best management practices need to be developed on the impact of the blooms to water systems using water from the source affected as well as systems downstream of the bloom. Brian Stahl is asking for a Draft proposal. The subcommittee will meet again on February 27.

Next Meetings:

April 18, 2012 – Public Utility Commission (Budget Update, SRF Update, Operator Certification Exams and ABC, Backflow Recommendation, Blue Green Algae Best Management Practice, Emergency Operations, Public Meeting Notices)
 July 18, 2012 – Public Utility Commission
 October 17, 2012 – Public Utility Commission