

Drinking Water Advisory Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2012
Salem

Members Present

Brittany Andrus, Privately Owned Water Systems
Paul Berg, American Council of Engineering Companies
Ed Butts, Oregon Association of Water Utilities
Sarah Chaplen, League of Women Voters of Oregon
Mel Damewood, Pacific NW Section, American Water Works Association
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
Beth Myers, Oregon Environmental Lab Association
Brian Stahl, League of Oregon Cities

Members Absent

Liz Redon, Watershed Councils

Guests

Robert Ault, Infrastructure Finance Authority
Dave Barrigan, Portland Water Bureau
Brenda Bateman, Water Resources Department
Chris Marko, Rural Community Assistance Corporation
Jeremy McVeety, Infrastructure Finance Authority

Staff

Adam DeSemple Gail Shibley
Dave Leland Diane Weis
Michael Perry

To Do:

- Contact organizations whose member's terms have expired: Members
- Send letters to organizations whose members terms will expire: Diane Weis
- Update Chromium 6 fact sheet: Dave Leland
- Prepare Integrated Water Resources Strategy endorsement letter to Water Resources Department: Brian Stahl

- Backflow recommendation on ASSE application: Cross Connection Control Advisory Board
- Finalize Best Management Practice for Blue Green Algae: DWAC Subcommittee

Welcome/Agenda Check/Roster Check/Member Terms/Meeting Notices/Update to DWAC Notebook:

Brian Stahl welcomed the group and led introductions.

The member terms were reviewed. Letters will be sent to the organizations whose members terms are expiring. Members whose terms have already expired will contact their organizations to nominate a new member.

The 2007 legislature put the committee in statute. There are 15 positions, three are vacant. If anyone has any ideas for members to fill the vacancies, let Dave Leland know.

February Meeting Minutes:

Gerry Meyer made motion to approve the minutes. Ed Butts and Jenifer George seconded. They were voted on and approved.

Member Concerns:

Gerry Meyer said due to program budget reductions for 2011-13, county contracts no longer include work to oversee some 900 very small non-EPA public water systems. They will not be routinely inspected or monitored but there will be follow-up if a system or its lab directly reports test results showing bad water.

Beth Myer said the classification of her lab might be incorrect. She will check with the Public Health Lab, and Dave Leland will follow up with the Data Management Unit of the Drinking Water Program.

Todd Heidgerken pointed out that the fact sheet on Chromium 6 needs updating to reflect California's recently revised public health goal.

Program Update:

- Portland Treatment Variance – On March 14, OHA granted the treatment variance requested by the City of Portland for a period not to exceed 10 years. The Drinking Water Program website displays the final order, comments received, and OHA response to comments. The Portland Water Bureau is required to do ongoing *Cryptosporidium* testing, periodically assess the Bull Run watershed for *Cryptosporidium* and potential sources, and meet rigorous conditions to maintain the variance.

- ASDWA Winter Meeting recap – The winter meeting focuses on the functions and business of the national/state drinking water program effort:
 - EPA currently portrays the importance of the national drinking water program by the jobs it creates and resulting investments.
 - More federal and local funding is going towards clean water projects (storm water and sewer water) than what is being made available to drinking water.
 - EPA has been directed to discontinue the SDWIS database because it is long out-of-date. The replacement, called SDWIS NextGen, is scheduled to begin operation in the fall of 2014.
 - The timing and issues of 12 current EPA regulatory actions was presented.
 - SRF Needs Survey results will be presented by EPA by February 2, 2013.
- Region X/NW States Meeting Recap – Dave Leland recapped the annual drinking water meeting between Region X and the four NW states. Discussions centered on national and regional enforcement targets, and the need to better coordinate annual grant applications and work plans for the four states.
- Drinking Water Program Performance Survey – The survey results were presented, thanks to the groups that distributed the survey to members: Oregon Water Utility Council, Oregon Association of Water Utilities, labs, and Public Utility Commission. Sixty-six results were received. On average, respondents scored the performance level at 3.25, with county and State Drinking Water Program staff giving a score slightly higher. A level “3” organization is defined as one that has “consistent outcomes-some glitches occur, usually not serious”. Respondents were asked to score the 22 essential program functions. About two-thirds of the respondents answered each question. Brian Stahl would like the results broken out by different sizes and types of systems. The committee asked that the survey go out to more people.
- PHD Strategic Plan and Org Improvement - Last July the Public Health Division became part of the new Oregon Health Authority. This July 1 the Public Health Division will realign and improve its organization structure to more effectively support OHA goals and priorities. The Division will go from five ‘Offices’ to three Centers; the Drinking Water Program and the three other environmental health programs will be in the Center for Health Protection headed by Gail, along with the Medical Marijuana Program and Health Care Licensing.

Revolving Fund Update:

- The 2012 Cap Grant application is almost completed. Some budget information is being finalized.
- The Intended Use Plan needs to be updated.
- Letters of Interest – Adam DeSemples and staff from Infrastructure Finance Authority would like to get away from sending out applications to systems that are not interested in applying for a loan or grant. They are thinking of sending out postcards to announce when packets are available and direct them to a web

page. This would save money and paper. Infrastructure Finance Authority can have the postcards ready by July. They would also like to create a process for submitting the applications on-line.

- Enforcement & Capacity – State Revolving Fund Programs have been asked by Environmental Protection Agency to reach out and coordinate with systems with high noncompliance scores.
- Performance Evaluation Report – EPAs 2011 fiscal year draft review report shows Oregon has a very successful program.
- The Infrastructure Finance Authority quarterly report has been reformatted. Jeremy McVeety asked for suggestions on improvements to the format.
- Bob Ault reported on highlights from the CIFA conference: 1) federal SRF capitalization grants likely will decline, 2) there is a “Buy American” push, and 3) Davis Bacon Act will apply to all loans.

Integrated Water Resources Strategy:

The Water Resources Department, with assistance from several other state agencies, is developing a state-wide integrated water resources strategy to meet Oregon’s current and future water needs. They developed a “Next Steps” report, with input from the Drinking Water Advisory Committee that focuses on water quality and supply that clearly explains where to go from here.

Water Resources Department is now asking for endorsement of their conclusion and “Next Steps” by June 1. Brian Stahl would like to endorse it with a letter, but will mention in the letter that the committee realizes money is short. He will send an email to all Advisory Committee members for their approval and input.

Certification Exams and ABC Contract:

The Drinking Water Program received a proposal from ABC; the contract will be negotiated and executed. The spring exam will therefore likely be delayed until early summer.

Currently the Drinking Water Program proctors exams statewide twice per year, but that needs to be looked at to determine whether that scheduled practice meets the needs all examinees. One alternative may be they work directly with ABC to write the exam anytime at their convenience after qualified by OHA. Staff asked DWAC to assist in determining the long-term direction for exams and certification.

Backflow Recommendation on ASSE Application:

The Cross Connection Advisory Board is discussing allowing use of ASSE approval for backflow assembly products installed in Oregon as equivalent to USC approval.

The Board received testing information from USC and ASSE, and the testing requirements are not the same. The Board voted on whether to accept the ASSE approved products, but the vote was tied so they were not able to provide a recommendation; their next meeting is May 16. The Drinking Water Advisory Committee needs a recommendation from the board with rationale for their decision.

This will be an agenda item at the July Advisory Committee meeting.

Harmful Algae Bloom Best Management Practices:

The subcommittee presented a Draft that they will finalize for the July meeting.

The group identified three needed Best Management Practices (BMP) to develop for: 1) water systems with intakes directly affected by lake and reservoir blooms, 2) systems with intakes downstream blooms, and 3) systems experiencing in-plant blooms in basins.

The subcommittee will finalize the draft, the Drinking Water Program will review, and maps will be created for the eight impacted areas of the state to date.

Oregon Resiliency Planning Project:

There will be a meeting with water/wastewater utilities to address system resiliency in the event of a subduction earthquake. Collection and distribution will be reviewed for failure rate and recovery time from a disaster.

Next Meetings:

July 18, 2012 – Public Utility Commission (Budget Update, SRF Update, Backflow Recommendation, Harmful Algae Bloom Best Management Practice, Oregon Resiliency Planning Project, Operation Certification Exams and ABC, Oregon Health Authority Reorganization, Nominate Chair and Vice-Chair)
October 17, 2012 – Public Utility Commission